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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you agree with the U.S. Labor report that further increasing the minimum wage will hurt the local economy?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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Nikko Sale

United Micronesia Development Association and JAL Group will conclude the transfer of ownership of Hotel Nikko Saipan Inc. on Thursday.

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Kenya Mayhem

Gangs of youths armed with machetes and clubs fought running battles with police on Sunday.

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SAG Awards

"No Country for Old Men" take top honors for overall cast at the Screen Actors Guild Awards.

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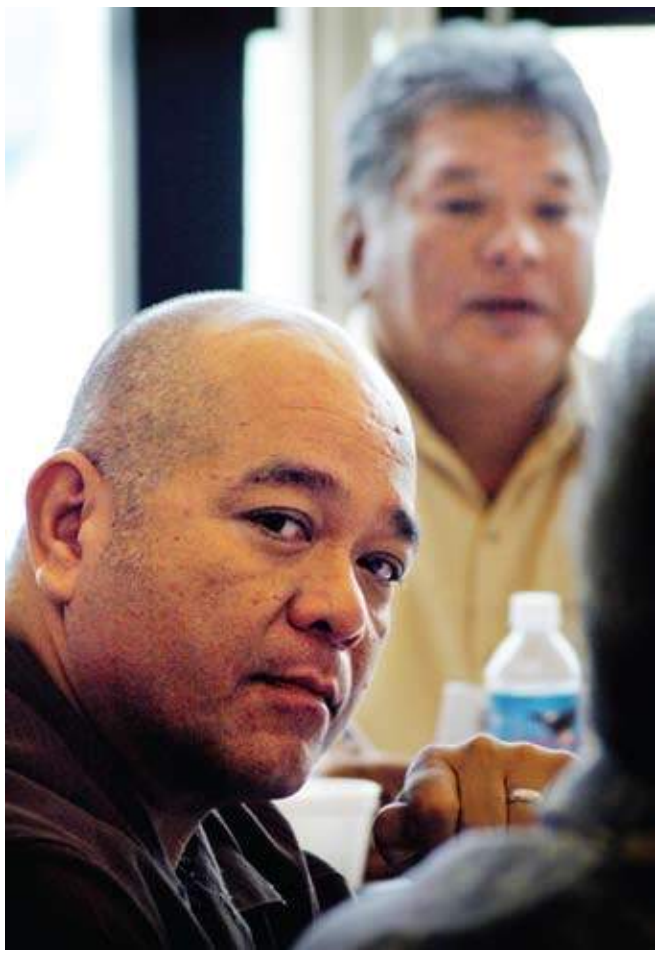
'Suspend further wage hikes'



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Commonwealth Ports Authority acting executive director and fire chief Stanley C. Torres and CPA board chair Rex I. Palacios listen during a discussion at a recent board meeting at the Port of Saipan conference room.

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Armed with the federally prepared wage hike impact report, the Fitial administration vows to lobby intensely against the next scheduled increase in the local minimum wage.

Fitial

"Just about everybody is in agreement that the Commonwealth cannot sustain additional increases to the minimum wage. We will do everything in our power to communicate this message to the U.S. Congress," press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said yesterday.

Congress is expected to hold hearings on the federal

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Man robbed at knifepoint in Chalan Piao

Incident is 6th armed robbery case in January

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Two masked men robbed a man at knifepoint in front of a laundry shop in Chalan Piao Saturday afternoon, while two armed men also attempted to rob a store in San Vicente last Wednesday.

The 38-year-old male victim was resting inside his parked vehicle across Clean Laundry in Chalan Piao Saturday afternoon when two men approached and pulled him out from the car. One suspect held the victim at knifepoint while the other suspect searched the car.

When the victim attempted to call the police with his cell phone, the suspect who was armed with a knife assaulted

See MAN on Page 4

Torres quits CPA, Fire Division

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Stanley C. Torres Jr. has quit as acting executive director and fire chief at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

His resignation will become effective on March 7, 2008, but he started using his remaining annual leave credits yesterday, Jan. 28, 2008.

He said he resigned "for personal reasons and after much thought and deliberation with my family."

"This is one of the most difficult decisions that I have to make as my family and I have truly become part of the CPA family for many years," Torres said in his resignation letter, addressed to CPA board chair Rex I. Palacios.

Several telephone calls were made to Palacios, but were not returned.

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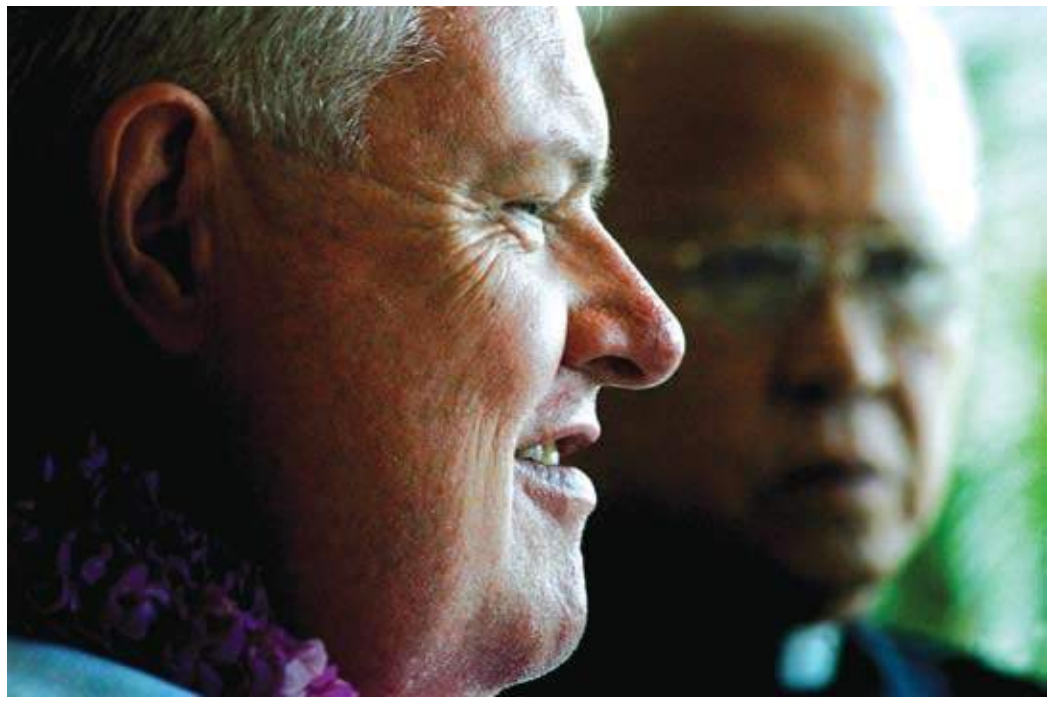

APOSTOLIC VISIT JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Apostolic Delegate to the Pacific, Archbishop Charles Daniel Balvo, shares his thoughts with Bishop Tomas A. Camacho upon arrival at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Monday morning. Archbishop Balvo will visit the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa for a week from Jan. 28 to Feb. 3.

Local

Fund warns vs missed premium payments

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund says government employees can lose their health care coverage if their agency-employer does not pay its share of medical premiums for three pay periods in a row.

In a public notice, Fund administrator Mark A. Aguon urged members of the government health plan to monitor premium payments by their respective employers.

"Please be aware that we are extremely sympathetic to your plight, but as your premiums now go directly to the carrier [Aetna Global Benefits], the Government Group Health and Life Insurance has, for all intents and purposes, ceased to exist," Aguon said.

He also said that the CNMI government is now liable for medical costs that GHLI members incurred, but did not file a claim for before Oct. 31, 2007.

GHLI's old third party administrative services agreement with Aetna expired on that date. On Nov. 1, 2007, the GHLI program was privatized and awarded to Aetna, through the competitive bidding process.

Aguon said the privatized program will only cover all new claims arising from medical services rendered after Nov. 1.

Members with "runoff claims" should contact the Department of Finance to seek payment of their old claims.

At least one agency has complained about the central government's failure to remit funds for its employer share of medical premiums.

The Public School System said the Finance Department did not provide the $13,181 needed for the insurance premiums of PSS employees for the pay period ending on Jan. 5, 2008.

According to PSS, 973 employees stand to lose their medical benefits because of the government's failure to release the funds.

New hazardous waste regs loom

The Division of Environmental Quality is proposing to promulgate its new CNMI Hazardous Waste Regulations in the February publication of the Commonwealth Registrar.

"The new regulations will supersede the Hazardous Waste Management Regulations, which were adopted in 1984 and are now obsolete," according to DEQ public information officer Reina Camacho.

"These Hazardous Waste Regulations are intended to address the potential for environmental contamination resulting from hazardous waste. To ensure the proper management of hazardous waste from cradle to grave, handlers of hazardous waste are required to meet specific standards and practices applicable to their specific waste type and quantity," a section of the new regulations stated.

The regulations apply to all persons that handle—whether it be to generate, transport, treat, store, or dispose—hazardous waste and to all persons that import delineated hazardous substances, as specified by the U.S. Department of Transportation, into the CNMI.

The regulations do not apply to an explosives or munitions emergency or explosives or munitions emergency response such as the emergency collection, transportation, treatment or detonation of military munitions by the Department of Public Services, which are governed by federal law.

One may view the proposed Hazardous Waste Regulations online at http://www.deq.gov.mp/section.aspx?secID=15 or may obtain a copy at the DEQ offices located at the Gualo Rai Center, Chalan Pale Arnold.

Anyone interested in commenting on the proposed regulations is welcome to do so within 30 days from the date the notice is published in the Commonwealth Register.

Publication of the February Commonwealth Register is currently scheduled for Feb. 15, 2008. ***(Rianne Pangelinan-Brown)***

Year of Reading kicks off Saturday

The CNMI Motheread/Fatheread Literacy Program will kick off its 2008 National Year of the Reading at the William S. Reyes Elementary School this Saturday from 8am to 12pm.

According to the National Literacy Trust, a charitable organization out of the United Kingdom, 2008 is designated as the National Year of Reading.

The NYR will run from January to December 2008. From January to March, organizations and authorities will be asked to take the Reading Challenge, to pledge and plan their support.

"Delivery of the NYR will be launch in April 2008, following a month-by-month look at the theme encouraged by National Literacy Trust," said program coordinator Viola Deleon Guerrero.

Themes for each month starting April is as follows: April - Read all about it; May – Mind and body; June – Reading escapes; July – Rhythm and rhyme; August – Read the game; September – You are what you read; October – Word of mouth; November – Screen reads; December – Write the future.

Another NYR event will take place again on Friday, Feb. 15, from 6pm to 9pm.

"The public is invited to come and participate in the various family fun activities to take place," Deleon Guerrero said.

Certified Motheread/Fatheread trainer Mary Jane Limes and Motheread/Fatheread Literacy Program assistant coordinator Bryan Manabat are leading the events for this month. For more information, contact 235-7319 fax: 235-7550 or email: cnmimotheread@gmail.com. ***(Rianne Pangelinan-Brown)***

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2 allegedly sold 'defense articles' to China

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Two men wanted in Texas for allegedly exporting "defense articles" from the United States to China without first obtaining a license from the State Department were arrested on Saipan over the weekend.

A senior special agent from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for El Paso, Texas served an arrest warrant to Ding Zhengxing and Su Yang at a hotel in Chalan Kanoa on Saturday.

According to court papers, the defense articles exported were ALH430 monolithic HEMT amplifiers and APH502 monolithic HEMT amplifiers (broadband noise devices).

Zhengxing and Yang were brought to the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday morning for an identity hearing.

Designated district court judge David A. Wiseman determined that the two arrested persons are the same persons named in an indictment filed in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas.

Wiseman granted the U.S. government's motion to transfer the defendants to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas El Paso Division.

Assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley informed Wiseman that the indictment filed in Texas last month has been unsealed.

Zhengxing, Yang, and Peter Zhu were charged with conspiracy to illegally export defense articles, and aiding and abetting the illegal export of defense articles. In addition, Zhu was charged with two counts of conspiracy to launder monetary instruments.

Federal law bars the export of defense articles on the U.S. Munitions List without a license for such an export, issued in accordance with the Arms Export Control Act.

ALH430 monolithic HEMT amplifiers and APH502 monolithic HEMT amplifiers are designated as a defense article on the U.S. Munitions List.

In the immediate aftermath of the violent suppression of the democracy movement at Tiananmen Square by the Chinese government, the U.S. president, through the Secretary of State, suspended on June 5, 1989, all licenses and approvals to export defense articles and devices from the U.S. to China. In 1990, the U.S. Congress publicly approved that suspension.

The indictment states that beginning Aug. 1, 2006 and continuing to December 2007, the defendants allegedly exported and attempted to export from the U.S. the defense articles without having first obtained from the Department of State a license for such export or written authorization for such export.

The alleged transactions were conducted through an ICE undercover agent via phone calls, e-mail messages and Skype online conversations.

Convicted letter sender files $61.1M lawsuit

John S. Pangelinan, a 55-year-old man convicted of writing a threatening letter to the editor, has filed a $61.1 million lawsuit against federal court judge Alex R. Munson and Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman.

Pangelinan also named as co-defendants in his lawsuit two lawyers, a federal prosecutor, an FBI agent, two federal probation officers, two U.S. Marshals, and seven other people.

In the lawsuit he filed without a lawyer, Pangelinan also sued 13 grand jurors and 12 jurors.

Named as co-defendants were attorneys Robert T. Torres, Lillian A. Tenorio, assistant U.S. attorney Craig Moore, federal probation officers Margarita D.L.G. Wonenberg and Melinda N. Brunson, FBI agent Joseph Auther, U.S. Marshals Donald Hall and Wolf Calvert, businessman Roy Alexander, Rufo T. Mafnas, Angelito Trinidad, Ronnie Palomo, Herman Tejada, Esperanza David, and Antonio Alovera.

Pangelinan said the defendants collaborated in his arrest without probable cause, prosecution, conviction and imprisonment solely in retaliation for his public criticism through his June 1, 2006 letter to the editor.

He said the defendants denied him due process of law.

On Sept. 27, 2006, a federal jury found Pangelinan guilty of writing a threatening letter to the editor dated June 1, 2006 and another on June 19, 2006.

The defense's argument was that Pangelinan was just exercising his freedom of expression in writing the two letters.

Moore asserted that the issue is not about writing the letters to the editor, but the threats contained in the letters.

In January 2007, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated presiding judge Wiseman imposed a one-year prison term on Pangelinan.

The defendant appealed.

In October 2007, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit reversed Pangelinan's conviction on one count of obstruction of a court order. The appellate, however, affirmed the conviction of the same charge in the other count. The Ninth Circuit ruled that the evidence was insufficient to support Pangelinan's conviction under the statute on count 1.

In June 2006, the FBI arrested the Pangelinan after an indictment was filed in court charging him with two counts of obstruction of a court order.

Five persons, through attorney Charles Rotbart, filed a lawsuit in 1997 against Pangelinan and co-defendants for fraud and violation of the federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act.

Pangelinan lost the case and a judgment was entered against him in the amount of $205,787 plus interest, and for attorneys' fees in the amount of $70,200.

In 2002, Pangelinan initiated a civil lawsuit against judge Munson and Rotbart, alleging that both conspired to deprive him of his constitutional rights. The case was subsequently dismissed.

In August 2002, federal court designated judge Edward Manibusan convicted Pangelinan of criminal contempt for disobeying Munson's order related to the 1997 case. The defendant was sentenced to prison for a few days. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Briefing today on FDM bombing

Lawmakers will receive a briefing today on military activities on Farallon de Mendenilla.

Roy Tsutsui, a representative of the U.S. Naval Forces Marianas, will conduct the presentation at the House of Representatives chamber at 10:30am.

The briefing was scheduled following the adoption by the 15th Legislature of a resolution requesting the military to stop its bombing exercises on Farallon de Mendenilla until an environmental analysis has been done on the island.

The briefing will take place even as the U.S. military conducts live-fire training on the island. The bombing exercises began on Jan. 23 and will run through Feb. 16, 2008, from 7am to 1am.

Lawmakers have expressed concern about the environmental impact of the military activities on the island. They say FDM has lost a significant amount of landmass due to the bombing exercises.

Farallon de Mendinilla has been used as a live fire range since 1976, pursuant to a lease agreement between the U.S. and CNMI governments. The lease is for 50 years with a possible 50-year extension. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

Fuel delivery delay triggers islandwide outages

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Delays in fuel delivery at two power plants on Saipan triggered sudden rotating outages throughout the island yesterday.

The outage started at 5am. All power was restored by 1:15pm, according to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

CUC spokesperson Pamela Mathis also reminded the public that two-hour power outages typically results in reduced pressure and that the water system will stabilize with three to four hours after electricity is restored.

Mathis said limited and rotating outages began at 5am in Susupe, Chalan Kanoa, San Jose, and Garapan when fuel supplies were exhausted at the Power Plant 4 in Puerto Rico.

As customer demand for energy increased in the morning when schools, government and private businesses opened, the power plants could not keep pace with public demand, Mathis said.

She said this caused an additional outage on the northern electrical grid from Tanapag to Marpi, coupled with an outage on the electrical grid for Capital Hill and Kagman.

Mathis said that after two hours, those grids were brought back online and CUC shared the energy shortage burden with other customers—trading the outages for the Middle Road grid (Feeder 3) and As Lito, Koblerville, San Antonio (Kiya 2 Feeder).

"With those grids down for two hours, the outages again rotated to Dandan, San Vicente, the airport area, and Navy Hill. The only grid or area that did not experience a limited or two-hour outage was at the Commonwealth Health Center," Mathis said.

The CUC spokesperson explained that due to limited customer collections and budget restrictions, existing fuel supplies are being stretched and few gallons of fuel were delivered to the smaller or supplemental power plants: Power Plant 2 in Lower Base and Power Plant 4 in Puerto Rico.

These power plants, she said, are used during peak customer demand or when bigger generators undergo maintenance at the primary power plant.

Mathis said that a primary generator in the main power plant was taken out of production Saturday evening for emergency maintenance because water leaked into the oil system.

"As this maintenance continued through Sunday, the Puerto Rico power plant was heavily utilized and its fuel supplies were exhausted," she said.

Although requests and payment for fuel were facilitated early yesterday morning, Mathis said that Mobil Oil Guam did not approve delivery until 12 noon.

CUC has been delivering 25,000 gallons fewer diesel oil to Power Plant 4.

Mathis said Power Plant 1 also lacked lube oil supplies, being 90,000 barrels short yesterday morning.

She said Shell Marianas made an extra delivery in short order, enabling the mechanics to rush maintenance of the primary generation units in that plant.

SCHOOL VISIT CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Division of Agriculture's Ben Borja and Ben Cepeda recently visited students and faculty of the Oleai Head Start Center.

THREAT AND RISK JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Participants from different government agencies gather for a photo with Texas Engineering Extension Service instructors John Sisario and Monroe Manley during the Threat & Risk Assessment Course at the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio Monday. The course trained key personnel who are required to prevent, mitigate, manage, and/or respond to all hazard and mass casualty events, with special attention to terrorist incidents.

TORRES

From Page 1

Torres served CPA for 15 years, holding positions in aircraft rescue and fire fighting, aviation, and maritime. He spent the last 10 months as acting executive director.

"Although we all had our ups and downs, and the tough issues we all had to deal with, it has been truly a rewarding and challenging experience," he said.

He thanked the CPA board for the opportunity to lead CPA. But he reserved his kindest words for the firefighters, employees, and management, who he said "have my highest respect."

Torres and Palacios have had a rocky working relationship, and many see it as a reason that Torres was kept holding the top CPA management post in an acting capacity. At one point, the CPA board made Torres' appointment official, but subsequently recalled that decision.

The most recent of the pair's disagreements involved Palacios voiding Torres' memorandum suspending the holiday pay for CPA employees. Torres said he was only following the budget approved by the board. But Palacios rescinded Torres' memorandum, saying CPA could not enforce the unpaid holidays policy until the Fitial administration-proposed measure had been signed into law.

As chief of CPA's aircraft rescue and firefighting division, Torres was instrumental in the establishment of the Pacific Region ARFF Training Center. The facility has trained and certified numerous fire personnel from all over Micronesia.

MAN

From Page 1

him. The two suspects were able to grab the victim's cell phone, then fled on a white car driven by a third male suspect.

The victim and some witnesses were able to note down the license plate of the suspects' getaway vehicle as ACG-855.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said that responding police officers and detectives found the suspects' vehicle at a residence in Koblerville. She said the vehicle was impounded for further processing.

"No arrests were made. This case is under further investigation," she said.

Saturday's incident is the 6th armed robbery this month.

With respect to the attempted robbery, Ogumoro said the incident happened at Hong's Market in San Vicente last Wednesday afternoon.

Ogumoro said investigation showed that two unidentified masked men armed with a baseball bat and knife entered the store.

One suspect demanded money from the cashier. The son of the cashier, however, came out from behind the store and confronted the suspects.

Both suspects fled the scene on a white tinted car heading south toward Dandan.

No one was injured and no items were stolen from the store, police said.

The suspect armed with the baseball bat was described as slim built and wearing dark trousers and a red long-sleeved shirt. The second suspect armed with the knife was described as wearing a brown shirt.

Last Thursday afternoon, three unidentified armed men robbed two tourists at Banzai Cliff in Marpi.

SUSPEND

From Page 1

minimum wage next month. Reyes said the administration hopes it will have an opportunity to appear in any of those hearings.

He stressed that while federal and local officials and the private sector are divided on immigration federalization, there is broad consensus against the proposal to further increase the CNMI minimum wage.

"I think any major stakeholder in the wage issue will agree that the next increase should not be implemented. Even the U.S. Labor's report reflects that. It is crucial that the CNMI be given an opportunity to recover," Reyes said.

The local minimum wage is currently $3.55 an hour. Under the minimum wage law, it must be raised gradually until it reaches federal level in 2015. The first 50-cent increase was implemented on July 25, 2007. The next 50-cent increment will take effect on May 26, 2008, unless Congress passes legislation to stop it.

In a statement issued yesterday, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial hailed the U.S. Labor Department Report, saying it "justifies what this administration and our local business community have been projecting all along, in view of our current economic situation."

"We are in absolute agreement with the assessment that further scheduled minimum wage increases for the CNMI are expected to add further challenges to an already declining economy," he added.

In its report submitted to Congress last Friday, the U.S. Department of Labor said that raising the local minimum wage to the federal level would have adverse impacts on employment and lead to additional population declines in the Commonwealth.

Increasing the CNMI wage to $7.25 an hour, the report said, is comparable to raising the U.S. minimum wage to $16.50 an hour.

Fitial commends American Samoa's Congressman Eni F.H. Faleomavaega for emphasizing the U.S. government's need to assess the U.S. federal minimum wage's impact on the fragile U.S. territories.

"Through this and other objective and impartial economic reports, we need to convince the U.S. Congress to adjust federal policy to the real needs of the islands," said Fitial.

According to Fitial, the scheduled U.S. federal minimum wage hikes should be adjusted to reflect the prevailing economic realities in American Samoa and the CNMI, so as not to adversely affect the most vulnerable people in the economically disadvantaged U.S. island territories.

The next scheduled federal minimum wage increase for the CNMI is set for May 25, 2008. It is unclear how many CNMI businesses would be able to withstand this and other federal increases in a contracting CNMI economy that has seen the decimation of its apparel manufacturing industry.

The report, titled "Impact of Increased Minimum Wages on the Economies of American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands," was prepared by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy. The report was mandated by U.S. Public Law 110-28, which sets schedules for minimum wage increases for the CNMI and American Samoa.

The law requires the U.S. Department of Labor to report to the Congress regarding the projected impacts of increases in the minimum wages applicable to the territories of American Samoa and the CNMI under the Fair Labor Standards Act. Both jurisdictions fell under federal wage policy for the first time.

Challenge eyed vs law that created delegations

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

Saipan and the Northern Islands Municipal Council member Felipe Q. Atalig said he wants to challenge the constitutionality of the law that created the local legislative delegations. This, he said, was one of the main reasons why he ran for the position in the first place.

Atalig, a member of the First NMI Constitutional Convention, said yesterday that Local Law Act of 1983 law "usurped" the local lawmaking power granted by the Constitution to the municipal councils.

Atalig

"You cannot create a law that is in conflict with the Constitution. The Municipal Council is the true government of Saipan. And it should be defined and cleared as the actual authority of all local matters," Atalig said.

The 1983 law established the local legislative delegations, allowing senators and representatives to make laws not only on the Commonwealth level, but on the island level as well.

Atalig said there is a need "to clarify" the functions of the municipal councils by questioning in court the 1983 law that created the legislative delegations.

"If we cannot clear this, we might as well just close down the Municipal Council; just abolish it," Atalig said.

Just recently, the Legislature attempted to abolish the municipal councils, saying their functions duplicate those of the local delegations.

"Right now, the functions of the Municipal Council is limited because we have never really challenged and clarified this in court," said Atalig.

He added that the issue only gives the public the impression that all the municipal council does is "pass congratulatory resolution. Nothing more. So if we cannot clear this, we might as well close it down."

"The need to address the constitutional role and function of the municipal councils, more particularly that of Saipan and the islands north of Saipan, is more imperative than ever," Atalig said.

"We must restore the integrity of the municipal council, so that it is not perceived as something useless and powerless. The council has more power than just passing non-binding resolutions," he added.

The current responsibilities of the Municipal Councils largely focus on creating social programs, such as various community programs ranging from beautification, youth, cultural and development along with duties mandated by law such as formulating the annual budget along with the Mayor. It also includes approving reprogramming of funds in the approved budget, confirming resident department heads and appropriating local revenues for the municipality.

The CNMI Constitution prohibits the councils from making laws as this is vested on the legislative delegations from each Senatorial District.

UMDA, JAL to close Nikko deal Thursday

The façade of the Hotel Nikko Saipan in San Roque. United Micronesia Development Association and JAL Group (Japan Airlines and JAL Hotels) will conclude the transfer of ownership of Hotel Nikko Saipan, Inc. on Thursday.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

United Micronesia Development Association and JAL Group (Japan Airlines and JAL Hotels) will conclude the transfer of ownership of Hotel Nikko Saipan, Inc. on Thursday, Jan. 31, at UMDA's corporate office at the Marina Heights Business Park in Puerto Rico.

Present during the turnover ceremony formalizing the San Roque hotel's sale to UMDA are two executives from Japan Airlines International Co., Ltd.—vice president and associated business president Tetsuya Baba and manage and associated business secretary/treasurer Yasuhiro Takada.

Leading the group from UMDA, meanwhile, are the company's chairman of the board Jose R. Lifoifoi, president and CEO Russell K. Snow, Jr., director of asset management and CFO Hiroyuki Saito, and corporate secretary Winnie Lee.

Officers from JAL Hotel Co., Ltd., Daiwa Securities SMBC Co., Ltd., and Hotel Nikko Saipan will also be present.

JAL Hotel's executive officer/BVL president Akira Yamazaki and corporate planning manager Jo Sato will be joined by Daiwa Securities Strategic Advisory Dep.(M&A) general manager of Hiroaki Ota, Strategic Advisory Dep.(M&A) senior analysis Aya Yamane, and Strategic Advisory Dep.(M&A) senior analysis Koji Nakamura, as well as Hotel Nikko vice president and general manager Hideo Nishigori.

In an announcement issued last Dec. 21, JAL Group and the UMDA agreed to transfer the ownership of Hotel Nikko Saipan, Inc. (the owner of the property) to UMDA by the end of January 2008.

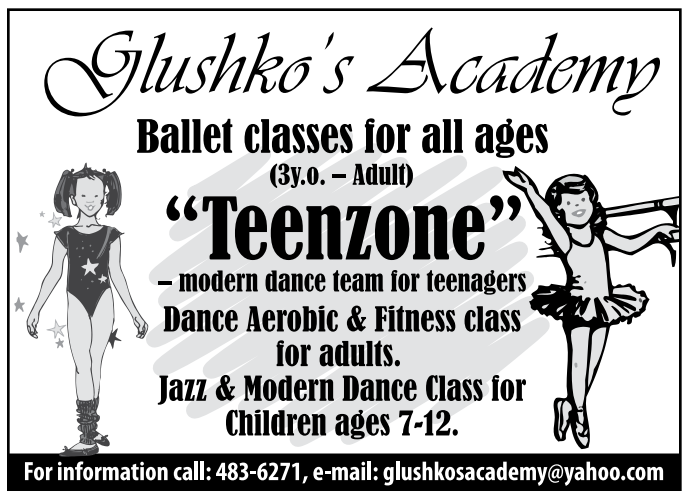
Under the agreement, UMDA will purchase from JAL Group all of its stocks in Hotel Nikko Saipan, Inc. The hotel premises include a large water park, a wedding chapel facility, restaurants, banquet rooms, tennis courts, racquetball courts, and a botanical garden.

The purchase also includes nearby staff residences (PauPau Terrace), dormitories, and interest in Tropical Laundry & Linen Supply, Co., Ltd.

Closing of the transaction is scheduled to occur on Jan. 31, 2008. Effective upon that date, JAL Hotels Co. Ltd, which currently manages the hotel, shall terminate its management contract and the property henceforth will be named Palms Resort Saipan.

UMDA is a CNMI corporation owned by regional individual and corporate shareholders, including the governments of the CNMI, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

In an earlier report, UMDA said it was still deliberating which among world-class hoteliers Sherraton, Hilton, Marriott, and Outrigger it will choose to manage the Hotel Nikko property.



ABTC needs 8 more enforcement officers

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

In order to perform its duties and responsibilities more effectively, the Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control Division of the Department of Commerce needs eight more enforcement officers.

This was disclosed last week by acting secretary Michael Ada in an e-mail to the *Saipan Tribune*.

"We currently have only two enforcement officers, as one of the members of that division recently passed away. However we are in the process of requesting to fill that vacancy, so we will have three enforcement officers and one ABTC director, David Maratita," he said.

Ada said ABTC should really have at a minimum 10 enforcement officers due to the necessity of going into the field in pairs.

The manpower shortage has resulted in Ada implementing drastic measures just to make sure ABTC continues to perform its responsibilities.

"I have recently required the ABTC division to work night hours, despite our inability to pay them a night differential, due to the establishments that they are required to monitor. In addition, I have asked our Enforcement & Compliance Unit to cross train with ABTC, so that we may utilize that office, to include its director to go out into the field to enforce," he said.

Despite the difficulties, Ada said that Commerce and ABTC will continue to forge ahead with its assigned task of making sure alcoholic beverages and tobacco will only be sold by the proper establishments, to the proper individuals, and during the proper time.

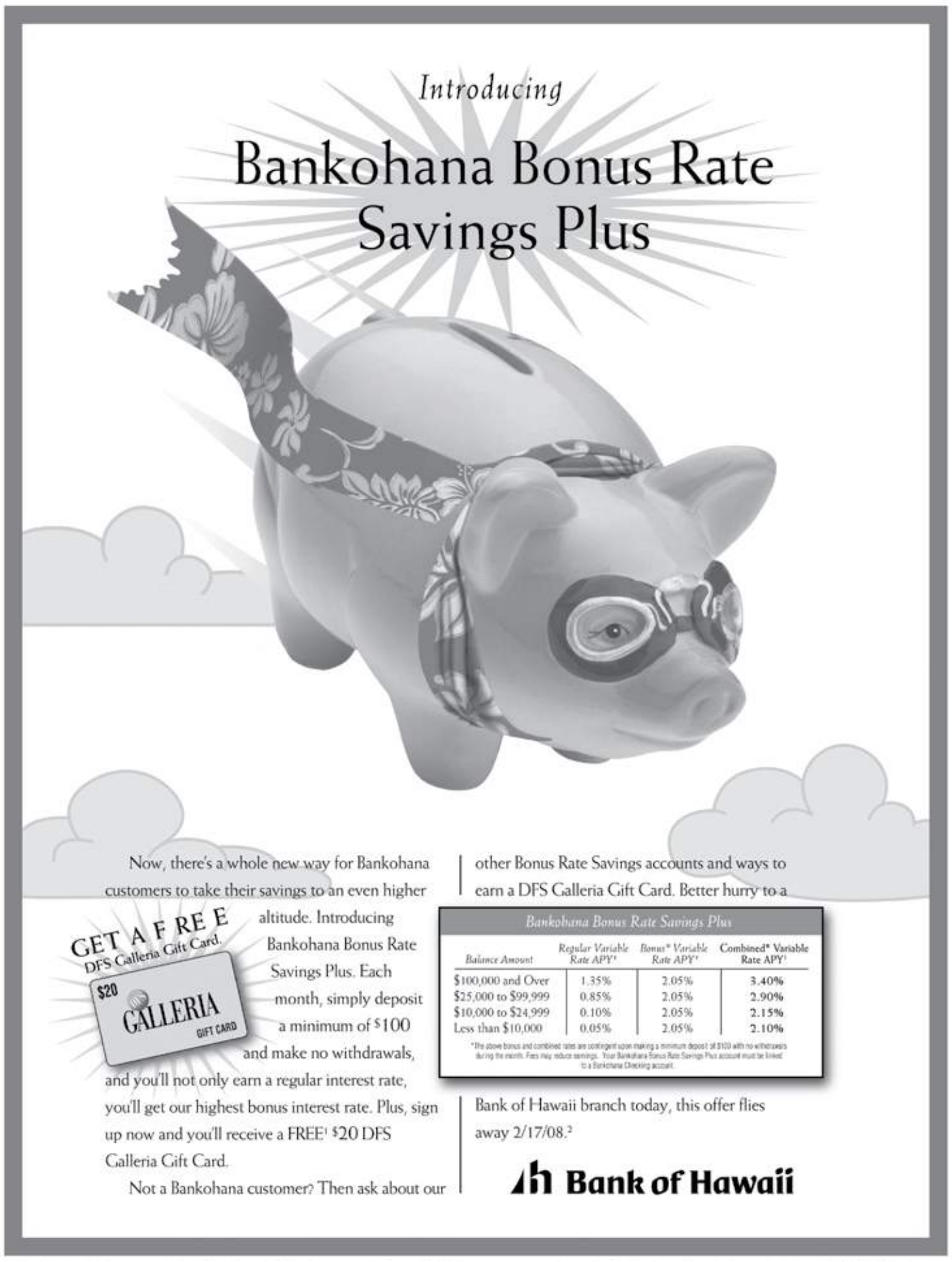
"As the deputy secretary, I, along with our special assistant and economic development director, have committed to assisting Mr. Maratita's division in the enforcement efforts."

The acting secretary earlier said that the department's enforcement efforts were hampered by personnel restraints last year.

Despite this, ABTC was able to issue a total of 625 alcohol licenses to retailers, wholesalers, and establishment licenses (bars, restaurants, etc.) in calendar year 2007.

In addition, ABTC also issued 317 tobacco licenses, which included nine wholesale licenses and 308 retail licenses.

In FY 2007, ABTC also cited four violations, which included three tobacco violations for not having the products in secure casings and one liquor violation for operating after hours.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Now, there's a whole new way for Bankohana customers to take their savings to an even higher altitude. Introducing Bankohana Bonus Rate Savings Plus. Each month, simply deposit a minimum of $100 and make no withdrawals, and you'll not only earn a regular interest rate, you'll get our highest bonus interest rate. Plus, sign up now and you'll receive a FREE[1] $20 DFS Galleria Gift Card.
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Balance Amount | Regular Variable Rate APY† | Bonus* Variable Rate APY† | Combined* Variable Rate APY†
$100,000 and Over | 1.35% | 2.05% | 3.40%
$25,000 to $99,999 | 0.85% | 2.05% | 2.90%
$10,000 to $24,999 | 0.10% | 2.05% | 2.15%
Less than $10,000 | 0.05% | 2.05% | 2.10%
* The above bonus and combined rates are contingent upon making a minimum deposit of $100 with no withdrawals during the month. Fees may reduce earnings. Your Bankohana Bonus Rate Savings Plus account must be linked to a Bankohana Checking account.
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[1] $5,000 minimum opening deposit and balance required for new Bankohana Bonus Rate Savings Plus accounts opened by February 17, 2008. Funds to open account may not be from an existing Bank of Hawaii account. Some restrictions apply. You will receive a $20 DFS Galleria Gift Card upon account opening. Limit one $20 DFS Galleria Gift Card per account regardless of the number of accountholders. Limit one per customer. Not available for existing accounts. Good while supplies last. [2] Current Annual Percentage Yields accurate as of 1/25/08 and subject to change without notice. Interest rates and APYs may change after the account is opened. Fees may reduce earnings. Some restrictions apply.
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MVA committee rolls out its active senior campaign

With three million individuals from Japan expected to retire in 2008, the Marianas Visitors Authority through its Niche Marketing Committee has launched an Active Senior Campaign that will commence in April 2008 and continue through March 2009.

This market promises to be a potential to the CNMI tourism based on its profile, which includes high discretionary income and a strong desire to travel abroad. The goal of the campaign is to promote the CNMI to the active senior traveler who are 60 years of age or over.

To accomplish this goal, the committee created a campaign theme titled "The Island of Warm Hospitality to Seniors." This campaign offers discounts at participating restaurants inside participating hotels as well as participating spas and golf courses. These discounts will be listed on an Active Senior Discount card, which will be distributed at participating hotels, travel agents and DFS. The Japan Saipan Travel Association will also be participating through a stamp rally which offers opportunities for guests to win prizes throughout the year.

This campaign will be promoted via magazine advertisements, editorials, MVA, hotels, travel agent websites, FAM tours, agent seminars, newsletters and collateral.

"MVA would like to thank each member of the Niche Marketing Committee that have participated in the development of this campaign," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "This is a viable market for the CNMI and we look forward to the hard work of the committee paying off."

"The committee recognizes the importance of the individual efforts in conjunction with MVA and looks forward to the opportunity to open up this market and entice new visitors from this growth market," said committee chair Aya Matsumoto. "The committee members are excited to be part of the execution plan to introduce this new potential market to the CNMI and expand it for the coming years. We are very confident that we will receive positive results from this campaign." ***(MVA)***

CREES tests 20 new taro types

The Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research, Education, and Extension Service is inviting farmers, students, and the community to participate in a field day that will focus on tasting and testing of different cultivars of taro.

"We are harvesting at least 20 new varieties of taro and would like to share the results with farmer community. We invite you to visit and taste new taro and provide us your valuable feedback to help crop improvement and production program of NMC-CREES," said CREES in a statement issued yesterday.

The field day will be held tomorrow, Jan. 30 (Wednesday), from 10am to 1pm, at the newly established Agriculture Experiment Station in As Perdido (behind DLNR Recreation and Animal Husbandry).

The CREES department has been conducting field trials of new germplasm and varieties of tissue culture banana, sweet potato and taro. The new varieties have been introduced from regional institutions and field trials being conducted at the As Perdido Agriculture Experiment Station.

The objective of the study is to investigate the adaptability of new cultivars to grow into the local soil and climate conditions. The germplasm is tested in the various Pacific islands and with superior agronomic characters with high-yielding and disease and pest resistant characteristics.

"With the new information and programs at CREES, agriculture research and extension staff holds great promise and benefit to the CNMI farmer community in near future," CREES said in the statement. ***(NMC-CREES)***

DEQ brigade sets cleanup

The Division of Environmental Quality cleanup brigade will be picking up trash from Makaka Beach.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify our island, meet at Makaka Beach in Garapan (south of Fiesta Resort) on Saturday, Feb. 2, 2008 at 8am. Volunteers will clean until 10am and break for drinks and then if continues, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade t-shirt.

This is a cleanup that should not be missed, so join DEQ's cleanup brigade and "Pick It Up!" Let us work together for the health of our coral reefs and cleanliness of our beaches for everyone to enjoy.

The DEQ cleanup brigade began in 1996 and continues to maintain clean, healthy beaches. Last month, brigade volunteers cleaned Aboni Beach.

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

ACS: Helping people quit smoking, chewing

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The American Cancer Society concluded last week the four-day Tobacco Quitline training for health care providers on how to counsel cigarette smokers in Micronesia.

Staffers from the Community Guidance Center, as well as off-island participants, took part in the training at the Pacific Islands Club, held Tuesday to Friday. Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez also opened up the training to nurses at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Altogether, 16 health care providers participated in the training: Reyna Malone, CGC; Ed Camacho, CGC; Ricky Itibus,CGC; Becky Covarrubias, CGC; Mike Manglona, Youth Affairs Office; Vernon Lee Manglona, Youth Affairs Office; Rhea Chong, Family Hope; Rebecca Cirujano, CHC; Saul Gargallo, CHC; Mila Cultura, CHC; Nikko Puguon, CHC; Rowena Alturas, CHC; Jacqueline Sablan, CHC; Bobby Ayres, CHC; Alex Ngiraingas, Palau; and Peter Cruz, Guam.

The training was sponsored by the ACS, DPH Community Guidance Center, and Ayuda Network.

According to Covarrubias, the group learned many valuable information regarding tobacco and how to help people quit smoking.

"We learned how to assess once a person decides he or she is ready to quit. And from there, walk them through a course of a four week [quitting] course," Covarrubias said.

The group also learned how to set up appointments to call up on a client to check on how they are doing, and to find other ways of helping a person quit smoking.

Another program provided by the group is the Cessation Program, an eight-week program intended to help people kick the habit.

Pamela Villars, counseling manager of the ACS, said she learned through the participants that the CNMI has a very high level of addiction among people who smoke and chew.

"The good news is that, although it takes a long time to quit smoking, a person can succeed after five to 10 times trying," she said.

In 2000, the Commonwealth Youth Tobacco Survey found that nearly 55 percent of middle school and 85 percent of high school students reported smoking in the last 30 days.

That dropped to 36 percent in 2005, when the Youth Risk Behavior Assessment was conducted.

However, during that time, when the World Health Organization conducted its survey of high school students at three public schools on Saipan, it found that 63.4 percent claimed to use betel nut regularly.

"Since the addictive nature of the betel nut has been reported, it is likely that these children will continue to use betel nut into adulthood," the WHO reported.

If anyone would like more information on how to quit, they can call 323-QUIT (7848).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sixteen health care providers participate in the Tobacco Quitline training conducted by the American Cancer Society at the Pacific Islands Club last week.

Guam National Guard taking part in Philippines 'Balikatan'

Approximately 190 soldiers of the Guam Army National Guard, along with members of the New Mexico National Guard, are scheduled to participate in the U.S. Pacific Command's annual bilateral exercise "Balikatan" with the Armed Forces of the Philippines from Feb. 16 to March 3. The unit is scheduled to deploy to Fort Magsaysay in Luzon.

"Balikatan" is an annual US-PACOM joint/bilateral exercise conducted in the Philippines. The exercise series fosters military-to-military relationships, while demonstrating U.S. support to the Philippine government under the Mutual Defense Treaty of 1951. Historically, the exercise consists of three events: Field training exercise, command post exercise, and execution of humanitarian assistance/civic action projects.

The 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry of the Guam Army Guard has been tapped to lead the task force in charge of the field training exercise portion of the exercise. The battalion has been participating in the "Balikatan" exercise since 2002.

The Guam National Guard is also a partner with the Philippines in the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program. Both the Guam Air and Army Guard participate in this partnership program.

The infantry battalion is being augmented with a support element composed of soldiers from the various other units of the Guam Army Guard. The Support Element is providing logistic, maintenance, medical, and administrative support to the infantry battalion.

Approximately 140 soldiers from the New Mexico Army National Guard will also join the Guam soldiers. Their unit was invited by MG Donald Goldhorn, the Adjutant General of the Guam Guard, to participate in the exercise because of their World War II historic ties to the Philippines. Soldiers from the New Mexico Guard were involved in the defense of the Bataan peninsula and also in the Bataan Death March in World War II.

The 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry, is currently in its fourth and last rotation of company-sized deployments to the Horn of Africa in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and the Global War on Terror. The fourth rotation, Team Delta, mobilized in early January 2007 and deployed to the Horn of Africa in April 2007. It is scheduled to redeploy to Hawaii in April 2008 and return to Guam around the first week of May. It has approximately 150 Soldiers.

The 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry also has another company, Team Alpha, currently in Hawaii for more post-mobilization training for a deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and the Global War on Terror. The unit, approximately 180 Soldiers total, is deploying to Afghanistan in early February 2008 and is scheduled to return in late November 2008.

The Guam Army Guard also currently has a 16-man Embedded Training Team deployed to Afghanistan to assist in the training of the Afghan National Army and Police. It has a second 14-man Embedded Training Team that was mobilized in the latter part of November 2007 for the same mission. That team is currently at post-mobilization training at Fort Riley, Kansas. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SCC's Team Captains' meeting reset

The Team Captains' meeting for the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's 2008 Corporate Cultural Challenge originally scheduled for today, Jan. 29, has been rescheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 5, 3pm, at the Chamber office. There are still some openings available, so if you haven't signed up your team, do it now! ***(PR)***

MHS Class of 1978 meeting

A class reunion meeting has been scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 9, 2008 at 9am at SNACK 'N GO, King's Plaza Dandan (across Joeten Dandan Building). For information, contact Liz Balajadia at 898-9535/Bernie Igisair at 483-0859/Terry Kisa at 287-5247 or Viola Guerrero at 285-1268. ***(PR)***

MVA attends wedding exhibit in Seoul

The Marianas Visitors Authority recently participated in the 29th Annual Weddex in Seoul, Korea. The goal was to promote the CNMI as a honeymoon destination.

Weddex is the largest scale wedding related exhibition in Korea, with the longest history and the most visitors.

More than 200 wedding and honeymoon related companies from seven different countries participated in the 29th Weddex; and the number of visitors estimated was 70,000.

This year, MVA promoted the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota as ideal island honeymoon destinations with eight travel agencies—Lotte Travel, Redcap Tour, Honeymoon Resort, Sejoong Tourmall, Kyobo Travel and Kaya Tour, etc. CNMI products were exposed in each agent's booth design and brochure; and each agent is to be rewarded with cash incentives based on their sales volume.

Tenorio

"The natural beauty of the islands, the modern hotels and resorts and the short flight time attract honeymooners to the CNMI," said Eung-Sik Chun from Kaya Tour.

"MVA is committed to grow the honeymoon market in Korea," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "With the increased number of flights out of Korea into the CNMI, we now have the air seats needed to effectively service this market."

MVA also plans to participate in the oncoming 30th Weddex, which is to be held July 16 - 20, 2008. ***(MVA)***

BankPacific gets 'excellent' rating

BankPacific has earned an "Excellent" rating from Bauer Financial Inc., the nation's leading independent bank rating firm, according to Philip Flores, BankPacific president and CEO.

"All of us at BankPacific are honored to be recognized by Bauer Financial and to be named by them as 'one of the best banks in the county.' This recognition reflects the commitment of the bank's directors, officers and staff in our continuing efforts to build a solid financial foundation for BankPacific and our customers," said Flores.

BankPacific has been serving the financial needs of the Pacific region since 1954. ***(PR)***

PUBLIC NOTICE
TO ALL GOVERNMENT HEALTH PLAN MEMBERS

This is to notify all Members of the Government Group Health and Life Insurance ("GHLI") Program that effective October 31, 2007 the Third Party Administrative Services Agreement with Aetna Global Benefits the GHLI Program expired. Following the expiration of this Third Party Administrative Services Agreement ("TPA Agreement") certain medical claims have arose From GHLI Members, that had not been submitted to Aetna Global Benefits during the period of the TPA Agreement. The responsibility for these "runoff" claims, pursuant to statutory law, lies clearly with the central government.

1 CMC § 8427, entitled *"Liabilities of the Government Life and Health Insurance Programs,"* states:

> Liabilities of the government life and health insurance programs shall be liabilities of the Commonwealth government and not of the Northern Marianas Retirement Fund.

At roughly the same time as the expiration of the TPA Agreement, the GHLI Program was privatized, and awarded to AETNA, through the competitive bidding process. Accordingly, all new claims arising for medical services rendered after November 1, 2007 will be covered under the newly privatized program, and your coverage should be maintained. As the new claims are covered under the new fully-privatized Agreement, there will be no gap in medical treatment However, this new period of coverage does not apply to the "runoff" claims. You may, in turn, be "balance-billed" for the older "runoff" claims until the central government meets its obligation to remit its share to your Medical Provider(s). In the interim, you are urged to contact the Secretary of Finance, and/or the appropriate agency, to seek remittance for these old claims.

Note that all premiums are remitted to AETNA, as the new Carrier, and GHLI is in the process of winding down (dissolution). Yet also note that the new coverage you will receive is the newly improved policy limits of medical claims of $200,000 annual and $1,000,000 lifetime.

Please be aware that we are extremely sympathetic to your plight, but as your premiums now go directly to the Carrier, GHLI has, for all intents and purposes, ceased to exist. If you are an active government employee, note that should your Employer fail to remit their part of your medical premium for three consecutive pay periods, your health care coverage may be cancelled. You are urged to monitor compliance with these terms by your appropriate government agency.

/s/
Mark A. Aguon
Administrator
January 25, 2008

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

January 29, 2001

CPA draws out plans to save direct flights
Discussions are now underway between major government agencies to facilitate ways that may help save direct flights between Saipan and two major areas in Asia which the Commonwealth may permanently lose. Executive Director Carlos H. Salas disclosed the Commonwealth Ports Authority has been in coordination with the Marianas Visitors Authority since reports on the possible pullout of Mandarin Airlines surfaced earlier this month.

House body OKs mediation program
A proposal seeking to validate Commonwealth rules that would employ court-appointed certified mediators to step into disputes between conflicting parties has won the approval of the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations. Recognizing the merits of out-of-court settlements that promote and preserve pleasant relations between dissenting individuals, the Committee has recommended that the House of Representatives approve the measure.

'Focus Japan promotions to consumers'
The Japan Marianas Travel Club has asked the Marianas Visitors Authority to focus its promotional efforts to consumers and not on the Japanese travel agents. In a recent meeting with the 12-member JMTC in Tokyo, MVA Board Chair Dave M. Sablan and Managing Director Perry Tenorio pledged to continue the agency's promotional efforts in Japan.

January 29, 2002

Warner Bros. store closing down next month
The Warner Bros. Studio Store at the DFS Galleria will permanently pull its shutter down next month, an apparent indication of slow business in the Northern Marianas. Store personnel said the clearance sale, which started in December 2001, was aimed at dispatching as many stocks as possible to at least recoup some investments. Majority of the signature items on the retail store's shelves are on sale at discounted rates that range from 30 percent to 70 percent.

Spring 02 enrollment up 10 percent
Northern Marianas College's Spring 2002 enrollment figures posted a ten percent growth from Spring 2001's registration numbers, an increase attributed to a swelling consciousness on the merits of obtaining a postsecondary degree. The current semester's student head-count closed at 1,113 as of yesterday, as compared to Spring 2001's 1,013 student enrollment, data compiled by the NMC Admissions and Records revealed.

SGMA: Garment industry is hurting
The garment sector may be the CNMI's biggest industry and largest contributor to the government's coffers but it is now hurting and it intends to show the government just how it is being hurt. Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association Executive Director Richard Pierce said the garment industry will soon be making a presentation to the Legislature and the Office of the Governor to explain the inner workings of the apparel manufacturing sector.

January 29, 2003

Govt assures Puerto Rico dump closure next week
The Babauta administration gave the assurance that the Puerto Rico dumpsite would be closed on February 7, when the Marpi landfill project is completed. Press Secretary Pete Callaghan made the assurance Friday. Only weather factors could delay the schedule, he said.

Out with the old, on with the new
Nearly 160 people trooped to the Hibiscus Hall of the Dai-Ichi Saipan Beach Hotel last Saturday to witness the glittering installation of the 2003 officers of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce led by Triple Jay general manager Jay Jones, who assumes this year as the organization's new president. The affair was virtually a who's who of the leading political and business personalities in the Marianas, with newly inaugurated Guam Gov. Felix Camacho himself keynoting the event and CNMI Gov. Juan N. Babauta giving the opening remarks. Camacho was accompanied by his wife, Joann.

Island Snapshots

APOSTOLIC VISIT

Apostolic Delegate to the Pacific Archbishop Charles Daniel Balvo, center, joins Bishop Tomas A. Camacho, Fr. Ryan Jimenez, David Sablan Sr., and Fr. Joe Billotti at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan yesterday. Archbishop Balvo will visit the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa for a week from Jan. 28 to Feb. 3.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

FEDERALIZATION BRIEFING

Governor's special legal counsel Howard P. Willens gestures as he delivers his presentation on the NMI immigration bill at the Porky's Beach Bar in Garapan Saturday morning.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

CHRISTENING PARTY CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Singing Superstars Year 1 Champions Nikki Canape and Alyssa Benavente serenade the guests at the Christening party for Cherina Kaye V. Cabrera, daughter of Saipan Unity Lions Melvin and Leny Cabrera, at Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort. Congratulations to the proud parents and godparents.

CNMI AT WEDDEX

Various travel agents showcase the CNMI during the Weddex show in Seoul, South Korea. Weddex is the largest scale wedding related exhibition in Korea, with the longest history and the most visitors. More than 200 wedding and honeymoon related companies from seven different countries participated in the 29th Weddex; and the number of visitors estimated was 70,000. ***See related story on Page 8.***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY GREETING

Belated birthday greeting going out to Ross Manglona who celebrated his 32nd birthday yesterday, Jan. 28, 2008. Ross is the Director of CREES at the Northern Marianas College. Your wife and kids wish you the best and more birthdays to come.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Another Iran resolution

After U.S. intelligence agencies reported last month that Iran had suspended a covert nuclear weapons program, it seemed possible that the principal impact would be to kill the Bush administration's diplomatic campaign to stop Tehran's accelerating—and only nominally civilian—work on uranium enrichment. For that reason, the announcement of an agreement by the United States, the four other permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and Germany on a new sanctions resolution was important. The punitive measures in the draft are weak: an extension of travel restrictions on some senior Iranian officials and a mandate for monitoring transactions by Iranian banks are the main elements. But passage of the resolution in the coming weeks could send the message to Iran that the international coalition against its nuclear program remains intact and that the pressure to comply with a U.N. order to suspend uranium enrichment will continue.

Iran has stood in defiance of that order for more than 18 months, even as it has rapidly built up an enrichment facility capable of producing the raw material for a bomb in about a year. But the good news is that the sanctions passed in two previous Security Council resolutions and augmented by unilateral steps by the U.S. Treasury appear to be having an impact. Imported consumer goods are getting scarcer and more expensive in Iranian cities; thanks in part to disinvestment caused by the sanctions, a natural gas shortage has intensified a battle between President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and parliament. There's a decent chance that Iranian voters will punish the hard-line faction Ahmadinejad represents in parliamentary elections scheduled for March.

None of this means that Iran will soon suspend its nuclear work or even deliver on the cooperation it has promised the International Atomic Energy Agency in clearing up unanswered questions about its program. But it does suggest that if sustained and strengthened, sanctions could eventually force the regime to choose between a nuclear weapons capacity and a viable economy. The National Intelligence Estimate concluded that Iran would be guided by "a cost-benefit approach" in deciding about its nuclear program. We can only hope that this assessment is correct—and that the Security Council will ensure that the costs are made manifest.

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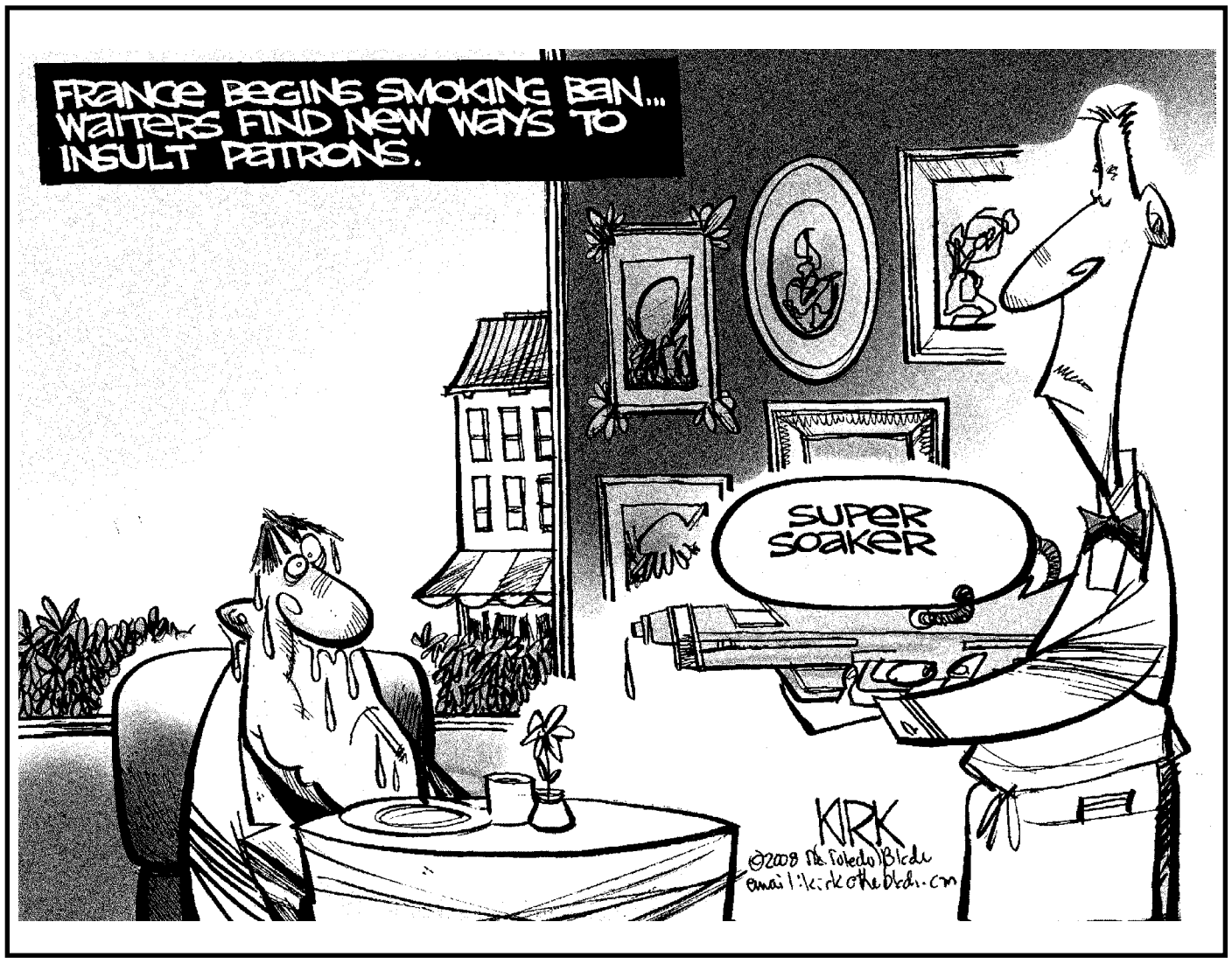
FRANCE BEGINS SMOKING BAN... WAITERS FIND NEW WAYS TO INSULT PATRONS.
SUPER SOAKER
KIRK
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Driving home a No

What is Taotao Tano?

I am not a spokesman for Taotao Tano but I will give you my opinion on what they stand for as I see it. I went to listen and see what they wanted. Here is what I found. They are not against foreign contract workers. They are not in league with, nor do they condone corruption in local government. They are not racist rednecks, as some mainlander liberals and mainland educated liberal locals would have you believe. They are not inarticulate boobs spouting hatred. Some big-government loving "liberals," a few of our U.S. government employees, and a few other self-interest-oriented sympathizers of federalization call them that to try to close your mind to their message.

To me they seem to be a force trying to keep the indigenous peoples of these islands from being screwed like the Hawaiians and the American Indians and other original native peoples around the world have been screwed. They simply want to stand up and say, 'This is our island; come and visit…even come to stay if you want, but please remember whose islands they are. Don't promise to give us a helping hand up, then shaft us by taking over our fledgling self-government and try running the place according to your best self-interest instead of ours. We don't want to be 'federalized'. We do not want to be taken over and ruled by you.'

That seems to be their message, and if you have missed it, it is because they usually articulate it in their own sovereign language, not yours. Try listening closely with an open mind and you will hear a different message than the stereotype their opponents would have you believe.

(As I said, I am not their spokesman. If the real spokespersons of CNMI Taotao Tano think I am wrong about their message or their goals, I invite them to reply through an unedited message in this column or through a letter to the editor).

■ ■ ■

Don't let the red herrings sway you

Proponents of "federalization" (a nice way to say U.S. takeover) will try to make you believe the recent CNMI motorcade protest was about the new labor law (P.L. 15-108), or about the plight of foreign guest workers, or about a bloated government, or about how many cars showed up to protest, or 20 other off-subject items.

Not so. That grass roots upwelling of residents both driving and watching were trying to show support for an independently governed, self-sufficient CNMI. A country simply trying to govern itself as promised.

The small but vocal takeover camp wants to divert your attention into counting cars or claiming some vague discrimination because they don't want you to focus on the real root of the issue…a big powerful country taking over a smaller, militarily helpless one. That is what it is about. That is what the motorcade and the CNMI citizens sought to bring to the attention of the islands' leaders and the U.S. government legislators. The motorcade was about protesting that takeover.

Those who participated and most other citizens here are opposed to a federal takeover. It's that simple. We realize that a house that does not control who comes and who goes or how long they stay does not control its own destiny. It does not govern itself. Its controllers do.

Some of my friends in the mainlander community are in favor of the takeover. Some of them are uncomfortable with the culture here. They don't believe the local population is capable of governing itself. They want this place to be more like their hometown back on the mainland.

But this is not the mainland. This is not their island. They, and I, are guests of the indigenous people here. Under a U.N. mandate, the U.S. signed on as a helping hand "big brother" to help lift the CNMI and its people into position to self rule. That promise was codified in the Covenant. Now instead, they want to become George Orwell's version of "Big Brother" government oppressing the people and forcing its rule on those incapable of fending them off. In short, taking over control now that the U.N.'s attention is diverted elsewhere and they want control of these islands for their own use.

The universal claim of the pro takeover groups is that U.S. rule will be somehow better than what we have now. I've heard it 20 times at least. It's got to be better than what we have now, they say. Oh? How so? Invisible, uncaring bureaucratic authority 10,000 miles away interested only in their self-interest is not my idea of better government. The spirit and the promise of the Covenant was and is self-rule, not subjugation.

So don't be fooled by the many red herring stories or by counting the cars. Focus on Anti-Federalization, on Anti-Takeover, on Pro-CNMI independent self-rule. That is the core idea behind the recent protest motorcade. That is the core value of the CNMI Taotao Tano and the core value of most of the CNMI's citizens. They want to promote a free and self-governing CNMI. They try to stave off those who would steal their islands as they stole governing auton-

See DRIVING on next page

SOUR GRAPES

By BRUCE BATEMAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bruce A. Bateman writes Sour Grapes when the moon is full and the mood strikes. Stay tuned for each exciting episode. "Yes, he is opinionated." Email: bbateman@pticom.com; Blog: http://saipanuvian.blogspot.com/

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Crimes against the economy and community

An economic 'tipping point'

By WILLIAM H. STEWART
Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian, and military cartographer.

I read in the online version of the paper where two Japanese tourists were sightseeing at the Marpi area when one had an accident with their motorbike. The paper stated that a vehicle with three people stopped and at first the Japanese tourists must have thought they would be assisted by good Samaritans but, much to their dismay, they wound up victims of armed robbery with a ball bat and knife. Rightly or wrongly, this despicable act reflects upon the entire community. It's the bad apple in a barrel syndrome.

I recall once in Honolulu when a group of Hawaiians stopped a tour bus filled with Japanese tourists and robbed them. All the tourists on the bus lost their money, passports, cameras, etc. The business community lost no time in organizing to come to the rescue of the robbery victims. They offered their hotel rooms free; provided them with cash donations, replaced their return airline tickets to Japan and the Governor of Hawaii invited them to breakfast the following morning to express his apology.

I was very impressed at the steps that were immediately taken to mitigate this terrible event as much as possible and to protect Hawaii's reputation as a place to visit. Of course, the story of the robbery made headlines in Japan.

The recent event on Saipan at Marpi is not the first time tourists have been targeted by criminals. I venture to say it will not be the last. Something must be done to stop this type of criminal behavior or the island will wind up with no tourism industry.

I have the impression that the so-called "man-on-the-street" has little appreciation of the long-term detrimental effect of such attacks on visitors. I never read where any action has been taken to educate the general public through community service television; the school curricula; newspaper articles; public appearances by the police, etc., as to the damage such occurrence can and will cause the economy and, by extension government revenues and eventually fewer jobs.

To my knowledge very few seem interested in connecting the dots. Somewhere along the line a "tipping point" will be reached if it hasn't already arrived, considering the continuing decline in Japanese visitor entries. And it's not entirely a result of the absence of airline seats—if the tourist demand was there the seats would be available. You can write that on the wall. The islands are losing their competitive edge, at least it seems so with the Japanese market.

Since many crimes involve more than one perpetrator—and as a result of the fact "there in no honor among thieves"—it is not unreasonable to believe that if a substantial reward was offered leading to the arrest and conviction of the guilty parties they might eventually be identified. Of course, the reward must be sufficiently large (perhaps $10,000) to tempt the most dishonest of the group to testify against the others. The "informer" would have to be permitted to plea bargain in exchange for the identification of the others and guaranteed their reward and perhaps either a light sentence or a suspended sentence. This might send a message to others who might have similar ideas and the belief they won't get caught.

One way or the other this type of criminal activity must be "nipped in the bud"—and quick.

Letters to the Editor

No need to fear federalization

Ms. Doromal's response to Cinta Kaipat's twisted interpretation of the "federalization" of immigration bill was right on. It is amazing that, although we live only a hundred miles north of the U.S. territory of Guam, which has been "federalized" for over a hundred years, no one has taken the time to take a look at that island's labor and immigration laws.

I was chief of staff to former Speaker of the Guam Legislature Carl T.C. Gutierrez when the federal government decided to modify its stance on the importation of nonresident workers to Guam by local companies there. After World War II, the United States imported thousands of Filipino construction workers to help rebuild the island. They lived at what was called Camp Roxas, just outside of Big Navy, north of Nimitz Beach. In the early 1980s, in order to end the postwar economy and institute a stable economy for the local Guam work force, the "Adverse Effect Wage Rate" was created. The low minimum wage given to nonresident workers was having an adverse effect on the local economy by displacing U.S. workers, meaning Chamorro-Americans. Implemented gradually, companies that wanted to hire nonresident workers had to: 1.) prove that there was no person on island capable of doing the job required, and 2.), if they chose to hire a non-resident worker rather than an American, they had to pay the prevailing wage rate for the same job title in California.

There were complaints galore from the business community that it was going to "ruin the economy" of Guam. They complained the Chamorros would not work; they were "spoiled," shouted the business community. The speaker directed me to work closely with the director of labor and the director of the Guam Employer's Council, then headed by Bill Gibson, one of the finest men I have ever met. I found little need for intervention as Bill and the director developed a close working relationship that dealt satisfactorily with complaints from the business community.

Obviously, the action did not kill the Guam economy. Slowly, the Guam Chamorros began to try jobs in the construction industry and the tourism industry, and learned they were good at it. And, they liked that $10 an hour salary—and they liked not having to join the campaign trail every two years, sucking up to some politician in order to keep their job for another two years.

The adverse effect wage rate is still in effect on Guam, and nonresident workers are still hired as needed. All the nonresident workers were not removed from the island, as Ms. Kaipat raves. And, the effect of having this system on line on Guam is having an adverse effect on our economy because our locals who are not on friendly terms with the administration and are faced with problems feeding their children are moving to Guam, exacerbating our labor problem.

I should also note there is no reason for indigenous rights groups to be worried about losing control over their legislature to new non-indigenous U.S. citizens, should some of the nonresidents eventually become U.S. citizens, as happened on Guam. As a matter of fact, because of the large influx of Filipino workers imported to Guam after World War II, many of whom petitioned for citizenship, nearly 25 percent of the voting population of Guam is Filipino-Americans. Yet, if you study the composition of the Guam Legislature, a Filipino has rarely been elected. The late, great, Senator Ernesto Espaldon, M.D., is one of the few who has served in recent years.

The indigenous people of the Northern Mariana Islands need not fear the federal administration of immigration in the CNMI, or Cinta Kaipat's ravings. It will provide fair and equitable treatment for both the nonresidents and the local residents, creating a better economic future for the CNMI.

What people a failing to recognize in their opposition to this bill is that it will provide the CNMI with a seat in the U.S. Congress House of Representatives, right along with Guam's great political leader Madeleine Bordallo. With both of them sitting on the Interior Committee's subcommittee on Territorial and International Affairs and on the House Armed Forces appropriations committee, our new Delegate to Congress will be able to effectively deal with any immigration problems that might arise, and the office of Washington Representative can be closed, saving the CNMI government considerable expense. When this "federalization" bill does pass, the CNMI will owe a great deal of gratitude to Washington Representative and former Lt. Gov. Pedro Agulto Tenorio and our local workers will have a better chance for earning a living wage in the private sector of the CNMI economy.

Don Farrell
Marpo Heights, Tinian

Rating our hospitality and services industry

I was dumbfounded when a close friend of mine visited the CNMI and asked whether our hospitality and tourism industry has a rating system based on service and quality. I replied that we currently do not have one in place, but I am certain most hotels, restaurant facilities and tour operators provide exquisite services to their product, you will be satisfied!

Unfortunately, that was not the case for him and his family. He started his day by visiting certain places on tour by a guide. Being lugged around from venue to venue was not as comfortable and enjoyable and he would have preferred to have taken a rental to get about his enjoyment freely. The impression left in his mind was the tour guide simply catered to his own commissionable business and not to the request and desires of the guest. Ultimately his experience led him to state that the island is not so attractive and money spent on visiting was not worth it. I expressed much embarrassment as I truly believe we, our islands, have so much to offer and so much to see and experience.

The tour guide training certificate program from both the NMC and the MVA has been long overdue. I am sure there are snags that prevent progress, but as clearly in this recent experience by a visitor, we cannot afford to have more instances such as these occur, but what about our hotels and restaurants? I asked my friend about his experiences. He seemed quite impressed with the hotels and their services, but he claims our restaurants outside hotels in general are not up to par with services and quality and to some extent, he noted the smelly odors and unsanitary conditions in some establishments. He then added, if there was a rating system in place, better quality will be seen immediately as they (businesses) would do all that is necessary to get the praising grade. I honestly believe that fact.

Rating our hospitality industry would enhance our image, no doubt. We should consider the advantages this would provide to the CNMI's image overall. I recently reviewed a proposal from a friend of a friend that capitalized on the issues stated above. The proposal entails hospitality training and building on a long term consumer loyalty program. Personally, I love the idea and I believe it could work, provided the government backs the program. The result would be that we would have a rated hospitality industry, and over time, we can build to perfect our services for all visiting tourist and locals alike, raise our standards, and capture a higher yielding visitor.

Wayne Pangelinan
Koblerville, Saipan

DRIVING

From Page 10

omy and land from many other indigenous peoples. It's that simple. Most of the citizens here don't want a federal takeover. Pass it around.

■ ■ ■

End of an era

It was with a great deal of sorrow that my family attended the last Sunday Brunch hosted by the great Hotel Nikko Saipan two days ago. This hotel closure represents the passing of the last major Japanese investment in the CNMI and as such marks the beginning of a new era in our tourism industry.

There are still plenty of people, companies, and organizations that rely on and contribute to the continuation of a vibrant Japanese tourist market here on Saipan. We should all support their efforts. Other market segments, most notably Korea but China and Russia as well, are growing strong and beginning to replace some of the ground lost from our tourist base in Japan. We should support their efforts, too.

I am sure UMDA, the new owners of the hotel, will find top notch operators and do an excellent job of running the hotel and attracting tourists from Japan and elsewhere. We hope they will be able to continue the employment of the gracious staff that works there.

We'll be going back to try the food and the service when the new Palms Resort gets up and running. Meanwhile I want to personally say thank you to the many pleasant staff persons at the Nikko who, over the years, have made our visits there a wonderful experience.

■ ■ ■

Quotes of the week: Who can protest and does not, is an accomplice in the act.
—The Talmud

Power always has to be kept in check; power exercised in secret, especially under the cloak of national security, is doubly dangerous.
—William Proxmire, US senator, reformer (1915-2005)

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲81° ▼75°	▲81° ▼74°	▲82° ▼74°	▲80° ▼74°	▲80° ▼74°

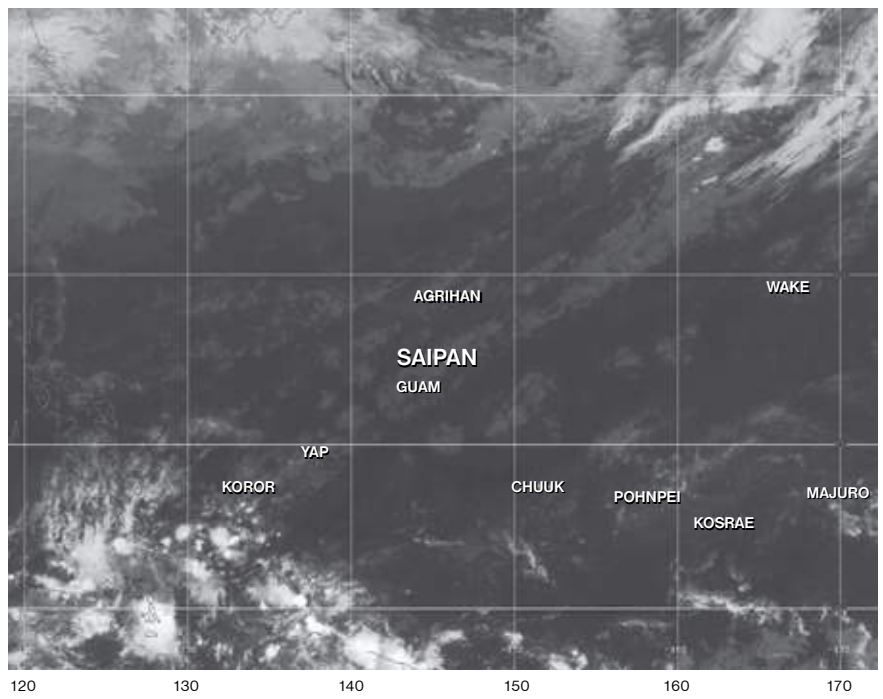
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼75
Palau	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼77
Yap	Sunny	▲89	▼76
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲90	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼75
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Cloudy	▲84	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲77	▼67
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲23	▼ 7
Hong Kong	Rain	▲63	▼55
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲75	▼67
London	Showers	▲50	▼43
Los Angeles	Partly Sunny	▲60	▼44
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼75
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼69
Miami	Sunny	▲76	▼63
New York	Cloudy	▲44	▼33
Osaka	Rain	▲49	▼37
Paris	Cloudy	▲51	▼38
Pusan	Flurries	▲44	▼22
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲58	▼41
Salem	Rain	▲41	▼32
San Francisco	Showers	▲52	▼44
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲37	▼19
Tokyo	Rain	▲43	▼35
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲51	▼37

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, JAN. 28, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends southwestward from 25N157E across Saipan and Tinian to just southeast of Koror at 5N134E. Extensive low-level cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 150 miles northwest of this boundary. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms between Koror and the equator or south of a line from 5N130E to EQ135E. Trade-wind convergence is also causing an area of isolated to scattered low-topped showers over Pohnpei, Kwajalein and Majuro or within 200 miles of a line from 8N156E to Kwajalein to 5N180. Kosrae lies south of this area.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
12:00AM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
05:50AM Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
12:00PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
07:20PM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47AM	6:13PM
Wednesday	6:47AM	6:14PM
Thursday	6:47AM	6:14PM
Friday	6:46AM	6:15PM
Saturday	6:46AM	6:15PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:56PM	10:59AM
Wednesday		11:36AM
Thursday	12:46PM	12:16AM
Friday	01:38AM	01:00PM
Saturday	02:30AM	01:48PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contribution are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 29, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	1,2,4,5,6,7
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	2,3,4,5,6,7

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	4:00am	7:35am	1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Manila

CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:30am	11:10am	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 078	8:30am	1:30pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Beijing

CA 988	3:15am	7:00am	1,5

Saipan-Shanghai

MU 590	4:20am	7:00am	2,6

Guam-Hongkong

CO 910	7:45pm	10:40pm	1,5

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

ARRIVALS

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,4,5,6,7
CO 9316	3:30am	4:20am	2
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	2,3,4,5,6,7

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	10:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
OZ 607	6:50pm	2:50am+1	3,7 via Busan
OZ 607	7:30pm	2:50am+1	4 via Busan

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	5:25am+1	3 via Koror
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Manila-Saipan

CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:35am	3:05pm	Daily
NW 077	6:15pm	1:10am+1	Daily via Nagoya

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:40am	3:10pm	Daily

Beijing-Saipan

CA 987	6:05am	1:55am+1	4,7

Shanghai-Saipan

MU 589	8:05pm	3:00am+1	1,5

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	11:40pm	6:20am+1	1,5

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

(Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana. ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

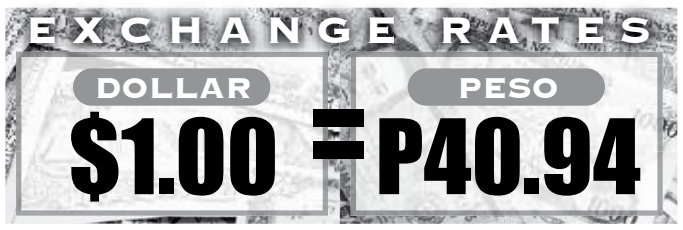
BUSINESS BRIEFS

French bank says trader hacked computers

PARIS (AP)—Societe Generale said Sunday that a trader who evaded all its controls to bet $73.5 billion - more than the French bank's market worth - on European markets hacked computers and "combined several fraudulent methods" to cover his tracks, causing billions in losses. The bank says the trader, Jerome Kerviel, did not appear to have profited personally from the transactions and seemingly worked alone - a version reiterated Sunday by Jean-Pierre Mustier, chief executive of the bank's corporate and investment banking arm. Kerviel's lawyer said the accusations of wrongdoing against his client were being used to hide bad investments by the bank related to subprime mortgages in the United States.

Wall Street braces for more volatility

NEW YORK (AP)—Investors are exhausted after their whipsaw week, but they're not ruling out another one. All the assumptions Wall Street made when it recovered from steep losses last week - that the Federal Reserve will cut rates again, that President Bush's stimulus plan will proceed, and that any recession that occurs might actually be shallow and quick - are going to be tested. Last week, after plunging, posting its biggest one-day upswing in five years and then capping the week with a loss, the Dow Jones industrial average finished the week up 0.89 percent. The blue chip index, down 8 percent since the beginning of the year, is on pace to log its worst January since 1960.



Survey: Americans delay spending IRAs

NEW YORK (AP) -- Americans who have money stored in Individual Retirement Accounts tend to hang on to it for use in the later years of their retirement, according to a study being released Monday.

The Investment Company Institute, a Washington, D.C.-based trade association, found that less than one-fifth of households with IRAs made withdrawals from their accounts in tax year 2006, with the typical withdrawal averaging about 6 percent of the balance.

Asked about future withdrawals, seven in 10 of those surveyed said "it is unlikely they will take withdrawals prior to age 70 1/2," the study found.

Sarah Holden, the ICI's senior director for retirement and investor research, noted that the rules governing IRAs, which are tax-deferred savings accounts, discourage early withdrawals.

Savers who withdraw funds before age 59 1/2 are subject to a 10 percent penalty; savers older than 59 1/2 but younger than 70 1/2 may take withdrawals without penalty. But once they reach 70 1/2, the law mandates "required minimum distributions" based on IRS tables.

"In this survey, among those making withdrawals, the most cited reason was the required minimum distribution," Holden said.

She said that other studies have found that people want to hang on to their IRA money as long as possible to preserve the tax advantages.

"They want to keep it in the market and have it appreciate, with the earnings accruing tax-deferred," Holden said. "They appreciate that feature of the IRA."

She said older Americans also see their IRA balances as "money for emergencies."

Paulson pushes Senate for stimulus deal

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bush's chief negotiator on an economic aid deal said Sunday the Senate should quickly get behind a plan or risk drawing the resentment of a frustrated public.

Paulson

The president and House leaders have agreed on a proposal to provide tax rebate checks to 117 million families and give businesses $50 billion in incentives to invest in new plants and equipment. The goal is to help head off a recession and boost consumer confidence.

"I don't think the Senate is going to want to derail that deal," Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said. "And I don't think the American people are going to have much patience for anything that would slow down the process."

But many senators say they are entitled to their ideas and that they never agreed to be deferential to the House and the White House on the final terms. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., agreed that the negotiations should move through the House first, but he and other senators still want to have input.

The Senate is considering adding such elements as extending unemployment benefits for workers whose benefits have run out, boosting home heating subsidies, raising food stamp benefits and approving money for public works projects.

Paulson negotiated the deal with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Minority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio. The secretary said some of the elements the Senate is considering may have merit but were excluded from the current deal to keep it simple and targeted.

Survey shows gas prices down 9 cents

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP) -- The national average price for gasoline dropped about 9 cents over the last two weeks, according to a survey released Sunday.

The average price of regular gasoline on Friday was $2.98 a gallon, mid-grade was $3.10, and premium was $3.22, oil industry analyst Trilby Lundberg said.

Of cities surveyed, the nation's lowest price was in Tulsa, Okla., where a gallon of regular cost $2.70, on average. The highest was in Honolulu at $3.35, according to the Lundberg Survey of 7,000 stations nationwide.

Nation

Independents to help pick nominees

By BEN EVANS
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—More than half the states holding presidential primary contests next month will allow unaffiliated voters to participate, giving millions of independents a chance to shape what is usually an insider affair among Democratic and Republican loyalists.

Two of those states—California and New Jersey—together have nearly 6 million unaffiliated voters who will be allowed to cast ballots. Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts and Alabama are among other prized catches with millions of independents eligible for the 20-odd state contests on Feb. 5, which has been dubbed Super Tuesday.

The open voting is widely considered to benefit Democratic Sen. Barack Obama and Republican Sen. John McCain, who have fared well among independents in recent polls and primaries. It also is reflected in Obama's words, from his outreach to Republican voters to his recent credit to Ronald Reagan in the context of elections that represent shifts in political direction.

"Obama's trying to do two things at once. On the one hand, energize the liberal base, but also attract independents who are looking for a bipartisan problem-solver," said Jack Pitney, a former deputy research director for the Republican National Committee and a government professor at Claremont McKenna College in California. "That's a very difficult balance, and (Hillary) Clinton is trying to highlight the contradiction there."

Pitney and others said turnout will probably be high among independents because of the wide-open contests in each party. But it is tricky to predict the impact, they said.

In winning South Carolina's primary Saturday, for example, Obama drew 42 percent of voters describing themselves as independents, compared with 26 percent for Democratic rival Hillary Rodham Clinton, according to exit polls.

But he had similar advantages among independents in New Hampshire and Nevada, and lost both states as Clinton won stronger support from core Democrats.

Obama, for example, had a 10-point advantage among independents over Democratic rival Hillary Rodham Clinton in New Hampshire and a 14-point advantage in Nevada, according to exit polls.

But Clinton won in both states after getting stronger support from core Democrats.

"It makes a difference at the margin," Pitney said. "I don't know of any cases where independents by themselves have decided a nomination, but in a very close contest, they might be able to tip it one way or another."

Obama says SC win turns a page

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP)—Democrat Barack Obama said Sunday that his landslide win in South Carolina's presidential primary marks a turn in political history, showing that a black candidate can appeal to voters of all colors and in all regions. The Illinois senator told a raucous crowd of more than 9,000 here that his big victory Saturday disproved the old notion "that if you get black votes, you can't get white votes," and vice versa.

"We're going to write a new chapter in the South, we're going to write a new chapter in American history," he said during his 64-minute speech to a capacity crowd at the University of Alabama at Birmingham basketball arena. The crowd was roughly two-thirds black and one-third white.

Earlier Sunday he made a similar argument, responding to comments by former President Clinton that some interpreted as an effort to diminish Obama's win Saturday over Hillary Rodham Clinton. Bill Clinton noted that Jesse Jackson won the South Carolina primary in 1984 and 1988. Jackson never became the party's presidential nominee.

Obama, speaking during a television interview, said "there's no doubt" that Jackson set a precedent for blacks seeking the presidency. But he noted that was two decades ago.

Still more rain in sodden California

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Fast-moving thunderstorms brought new waves of rain on Sunday to Southern California, following days of drenching weather and heavy mountain snowfall and raising fears of mudslides and flooding.

The worst of the storm was over, and Monday promised to bring a spell of clear weather, forecasters said.

"Things will start to die down as the night goes on," said National Weather Service forecaster Ryan Kittell.

Up to 3 inches of rain had fallen by early afternoon in valley and coastal areas since nightfall Saturday, with about 4 inches in the mountains, forecasters said. Wind gusts of 30 to 50 mph were reported in some areas.

Officials said the rain brought a threat of serious slides on hillsides stripped of vegetation by last year's wildfires. Mud and minor rock slides prompted authorities to shut a highway through a burned area near San Diego. Voluntary evacuations were in effect in heavily burned Modjeska Canyon in Orange County.

The Los Angeles County and Orange County fire departments were on standby for possible flash floods and slides. Flash flood watches remained in effect through Sunday night for Los Angeles, Ventura and San Bernardino counties.

AP

Los Angeles Fire Department's swift water rescue team watches as a crushed car is lifted out of the Arroyo Seco river after rescuing two people from the car after it plunged into the rain swollen river in Los Angeles Sunday Jan. 27,2008.

NY's 16-mile car tunnel would be world's longest

OYSTER BAY, N.Y. (AP)—It would be the world's longest highway tunnel, running more than 16 miles under the west end of Long Island Sound.

The cost is estimated at $10 billion - and it wouldn't cost taxpayers a dime. A developer wants to build the tunnel with private money, recouping his costs by charging drivers $25 each way and by selling advertising.

Developer Vincent Polimeni says the tunnel between Oyster Bay and Rye on the New York mainland would let travelers going between Long Island and New England avoid crowded New York City highways and help alleviate traffic congestion.

While not expected to be completed before 2025, the proposal received renewed attention this past week when a state Senate committee held a hearing.

Polimeni acknowledges his idea was initially met with "smirks and skepticism." But he added: "The more people looked at the plan, the larger circle of intrigued citizens who said `tell me more.'"

PET CARNIVAL

Carnival season in New Orleans is the prime time to see all the crazy people. Just add their dogs to the mix, as they did Sunday, and it becomes the annual Krewe of Barkus parade. Hundreds of dogs and their owners paraded in the French Quarter. Human and beast, alike, were dressed for the occasion. Popular outfits for the four-legged set included frilly collars and tutus, sweaters and hats. Here, Marguerita Bergen prepares to escort her dogs, Duke Tito and Jungle Goddess Isabella, in the Mystic Krewe of Barkus, a Mardi Gras parade for dogs, in the French Quarter in New Orleans on Sunday, Jan. 27, 2008.

AP

ACROSS THE NATION

Mormon church president dies at 97

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Mormon church president Gordon B. Hinckley died Sunday, a church spokesman said. He was 97. Hinckley was the 15th president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and its longest-serving president. Since taking over as president and prophet of the church on March 12, 1995, Hinckley oversaw one of the greatest periods of expansion in church history. The number of temples worldwide more than doubled, from 49 to more than 120 and church membership grew from about 9 million to more than 12 million. Like his contemporary, Pope John Paul II, he became by far his church's most traveled leader in history. The church presidency is a lifetime position.

Parolee charged with 1997 rape, killing

BOULDER, Colo. (AP)—A Wyoming prison parolee has been arrested in the 1997 rape and beating death of a University of Colorado senior after he was linked to the case by a DNA match and other evidence, police said Sunday. Diego Olmos-Alcalde, 38, was being held on $5 million bail on charges of first-degree murder, second-degree kidnapping and first-degree assault for the rape and killing of 23-year-old Susannah Chase of Stamford, Conn., police said. Chase was walking home alone early Dec. 21 after an argument with her boyfriend when she was beaten with a baseball bat and left for dead in an alley a block from her home. Police believe the intended motive of the attack was sexual assault.

Cops: Disappearance tied to prior attack

RENO, Nev. (AP)—Police said Sunday a DNA link between the disappearance of a 19-year-old woman and the December sexual assault of a college student leads them to believe a sole attacker was responsible for both cases. DNA taken from the scene where Brianna Denison was last seen Jan. 20 matches DNA gathered after the Dec. 16 sexual assault of a University of Nevada-Reno student who lived several blocks away, police commander Ron Holladay said. Police believe a white male in his 30s is responsible for Denison's disappearance and the attack, Holladay said. Holladay said the victim of the earlier attack was interviewed again after the DNA match was made and that a more detailed description of the suspect was developed.

Colleague: Patients feared Ohio nurse

SANDUSKY, Ohio (AP)—Nursing home worker John Riems had a temper and spent long periods in patients' rooms with the doors closed, neighbors and former co-workers say, troubling observations that have suddenly taken on a sickening weight. "We've had several residents, they don't want him touching them, they don't want him in their room," said Cynthia Wilson, a 47-year-old nurse's aide who said she worked with Riems for more than 20 years at several nursing homes. "A lot of them would refuse their meds just to keep him out of their room." Riems, 49, is charged with raping a paralyzed patient at the home where he was a night-side nurse, and police say he claimed to have attacked scores of others - so many that he couldn't recall them all. Riems told police he had abused almost 100 patients since 1985, at up to 10 nursing homes.

Asia

Suharto's body arrives in his hometown

AP

People gather along the streets in Jakarta as a vehicle carrying the coffin of former President Suharto passes by in Jakarta, Indonesia, Monday, Jan. 28, 2008. A state funeral was planned later in the day for Suharto

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Former Indonesian President Suharto, a Cold War ally of the United States whose brutal military regime killed hundreds of thousands of left-wing political opponents, died Sunday. He was 86.

Although he oversaw some of the worst bloodshed of the 20th century, Suharto is credited with developing the economy and will be buried with the highest state honors Monday at the family mausoleum.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono declared a week of national mourning and called on Indonesians "to pay their last respects to one of Indonesia's best sons."

Suharto loyalists, who run the courts, called for forgiveness and a clearing of his name. But survivors want those responsible for atrocities to be held accountable.

"I cannot understand why I have to forgive Suharto because he never admitted his mistakes," said Putu Oka Sukanta, who spent a decade in prison because of his left-wing sympathies.

A Hercules C-130 carrying Suharto's body arrived Monday in his hometown of Solo, 250 miles east of the capital, accompanied by two planes used by his family and friends.

"May God bless his soul and forgive his mistakes and sins," said Agung Laksono, the speaker of Indonesia's house of representatives, who led a brief ceremony at Suharto's Jakarta villa early Monday.

Suharto was finally toppled by mass street protests in 1998 at the peak of the 1997-1998 Asian financial crisis.

Afghans hunt for kidnapped American

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghan police tightened security in the southern city of Kandahar on Sunday as officials searched for an American aid worker, her Afghan driver and their kidnappers.

No group had yet claimed responsibility for seizing Cyd Mizell or the driver, Abdul Hadi. Gunmen kidnapped the two on Saturday in a residential neighborhood of Kandahar.

Mizell, who was wearing the all-encompassing burqa that many Afghan women wear when she was taken, works on aid projects for the Asian Rural Life Development Foundation. The director of Mizell's aid organization, Jeff Palmer, said the kidnappers hadn't contacted officials.

"We are trying our best to find them," provincial Gov. Asadullah Khalid said.

Several foreigners—including 23 South Koreans, two German construction workers and two Italian journalists—have been kidnapped in Afghanistan in the last year, but kidnappings of Americans are rare. An American civilian was briefly abducted in Kabul in April 2005 but escaped by throwing himself from a moving car.

Mizell

Abdul Mahdi, the brother of Hadi, the driver, said his family was upset because the police still hadn't contacted them to ask questions. He described his brother - a 35-year-old with five children - as the "most trustworthy" driver the Asian Rural Life Development Foundation had.

"All the children couldn't sleep last night after learning their father had been taken," Mahdi said. "And we are upset that the police haven't come to the house to ask us anything."

Mizell taught English at Kandahar University and gave embroidery lessons at a girl's school, and she speaks the local language, Pashtu, well, colleagues said. Palmer said she has worked for ARLDF on income-generating women's projects in Kandahar for the last three years.

Traveling around Kandahar city has turned increasingly dangerous in the last year, as the Taliban insurgency has spread throughout southern Afghanistan.

Estrada feels 'free again' on 1st trip abroad after prison release

HONG KONG (AP)—Ousted Philippine President Joseph Estrada said he was enjoying his freedom as he arrived Sunday in Hong Kong for his first trip abroad since his September conviction—and subsequent pardon—on corruption charges.

Estrada

Estrada and his wife, former Sen. Luisa Ejercito-Estrada, flew to the Chinese territory to attend a wedding.

"I feel very happy, free again, independently free again," he told The Associated Press outside a church in Hong Kong.

After six years in detention awaiting trial, Estrada was convicted in September of plundering Philippine coffers through kickbacks and illegal gambling payoffs. He was sentenced to life in prison, but President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo pardoned and freed him a month later.

Immigration officials detained Estrada, 70, for an hour at Hong Kong's international airport. Estrada said they were wondering why a former president was traveling without security.

The Immigration Department declined to comment, saying they were not authorized to discuss individual cases due to privacy concerns.

Estrada said he planned to return to the Philippines on Monday or Tuesday.

The former leader, who was ousted in a nonviolent revolt in 2001 but remains hugely popular in the Philippines, has said he has not yet decided whether to run for office in 2010 presidential elections. The constitution bars former presidents from seeking the post again, but Estrada's aides argue he might still be eligible because he was overthrown and did not complete his six-year term.

Survivors detail Suharto-era massacres

BLITAR, Indonesia (AP)—Hiding out in the dense, humid jungle, Markus Talam watched Indonesian soldiers herd manacled prisoners from trucks, line them up and mow them down with round after round of automatic weapons fire.

It was 1968, and the killings were part of a final offensive by forces under Gen. Suharto to wipe out the communist party and secure his position as leader of Indonesia, now the world's most populous Muslim nation.

"They gunned them down and dumped their bodies in a mass grave dug by other prisoners. I remember the sound of the guns clearly: tat-tat, tat-tat, tat-tat ... over and over again," said Talam, 68, who was later jailed for 10 years after being named a leftist sympathizer.

Suharto, who died on Sunday at a Jakarta hospital, seized control of the military in 1965 and ruled the country for 32 years, suppressing dissent with force and supported by an American government at the height of the Cold War.

Estimates for the number killed during his bloody rise to power—from 1965 to 1968—range from a government figure of 78,000 to 1 million cited by U.S. historians Barbara Harff and Ted Robert Gurr, who have published books on Indonesia's history. It was the worst mass slaughter in Southeast Asia's modern history after the Khmer Rouge killing fields in Cambodia.

A frenzy of anti-communist violence stained rivers with blood and littered the countryside with the bodies of teachers, farmers and others.

"They used to dump the bodies here," recalled Surien, a 70-year-old woman who lived near a bay used as an execution ground. "People called it the beach of stinking corpses because of the smell."

The CIA provided lists of thousands of leftists, including trade union members, intellectuals and schoolteachers, many of whom were executed or sent to remote prisons.

Another 183,000 died due to killings, disappearances, hunger and illness during Indonesia's 1975-1999 occupation of East Timor, according to an East Timorese commission sanctioned by the U.N. Similar abuses left more than 100,000 dead in West Papua, according a local human rights group. Another 15,000 died during a 29-year separatist rebellion in Aceh province.

In recent interviews around the city of Blitar, a former communist stronghold, survivors of the atrocities recounted a life on the run, living in caves, being beaten and beheadings of other captives.a

"I am disappointed. I saw great cruelties and am lucky I am not dead," said Talam, whose simple two-room home overlooks a valley dotted with overgrown mass graves.

Dragging on a clove-cigarette with trembling hands, he described how he was detained by police but escaped. He stumbled across dead bodies in shallow graves and slept in dank caves with hundreds of others, eating what the jungle had to offer for 50 days, until being picked up.

Talam, a former member of a left-wing union for park rangers, said he was tortured and beaten repeatedly during interrogations while detained on remote Buru island, where about 12,000 political prisoners were held, 1,100 miles east of the capital, Jakarta. "Why has no one been put on trial?" he asked.

AP

Members of the Youth Wing of the Indonesian Communist Party (Pemuda Rakjat) are guarded by soldiers as they are taken by open truck to prison in Jakarta, in this Oct. 30, 1965, file photo.

World

Kenya death toll near 800 in a month

NAIVASHA, Kenya (AP)—Gangs of youths armed with machetes and clubs fought running battles with police on Sunday and burned tribal rivals alive in their homes in western Kenya, pushing the death toll from a month of escalating ethnic violence to nearly 800.

Sunday marked exactly one month since the Dec. 27 disputed president election which sparked the violence that has transformed this once-stable African country, pitting longtime neighbors against each other and turning towns where tourists used to gather for luxury holidays into no-go zones.

AP

A Kikuyu boy holds a machete as residents arm themselves, following an earlier raid on the village in which a number of houses were burned, in the rural village of Mutakaniob, near Nakuru, in Kenya, Sunday, Jan. 27, 2008.

It also complicated the task of former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, the latest international mediator trying to promote talks between President Mwai Kibaki and his chief rival, opposition leader Raila Odinga. The two met Thursday for the first time since the election.

Kibaki and Odinga remain far apart on how to resolve the crisis, the worst the country has seen since its 1963 independence from Britain. Kibaki has said he is open to direct talks with Odinga, but that his position as president is not negotiable. Odinga says Kibaki must step down and new elections are the only alternative.

The clashes have mainly pitted other ethnic groups, which support the opposition because they feel marginalized, against Kibaki's Kikuyu people.

Kikuyus were the main victims in the initial eruption of violence, with hundreds killed and more than half of those driven from their homes belonging to Kibaki's tribe. Now, however, it appears the Kikuyus are looking for revenge.

"We have moved out to avenge the deaths of our brothers and sisters who have been killed, and nothing will stop us," said Anthony Mwangi, hefting a club in the western town of Naivasha. "For every one Kikuyu killed, we shall avenge their killing with three."

The fighting spread Sunday to Naivasha, 55 miles northwest of Nairobi, a previously quiet tourist town with a stunning freshwater lake.

At least 22 people were killed in the town over the weekend, said district commissioner Katee Mwanza. At least five of them were burned to death in their homes, said Willy Lugusa, a police official. Others were hacked to death with machetes, a local reporter told The Associated Press.

Women lose in Mexico Indian rights gain

AP

Women listen during a group interview with the Associated Press in Santa Maria Quiegolani village in Mexico, Sunday, Jan. 6, 2008.

SANTA MARIA QUIEGOLANI, Mexico (AP)—Women in this Indian village high in the pine-clad mountains of Oaxaca rise each morning at 4 a.m. to gather firewood, grind corn, prepare the day's food, care for the children and clean the house.

But they aren't allowed to vote in local elections, because - the men say - they don't do enough work.

It was here, in a village that has struggled for centuries to preserve its Zapotec traditions, that Eufrosina Cruz, 27, decided to become the first woman to run for mayor - despite the fact that women aren't allowed to attend town assemblies, much less run for office.

The all-male town board tore up ballots cast in her favor in the Nov. 4 election, arguing that as a woman, she wasn't a "citizen" of the town. "That is the custom here, that only the citizens vote, not the women," said Valeriano Lopez, the town's deputy mayor.

Rather than give up, Cruz has launched the first serious, national-level challenge to traditional Indian forms of government, known as "use and customs," which were given full legal status in Mexico six years ago in response to Indian rights movements sweeping across Latin America.

"For me, it's more like 'abuse and customs,'" Cruz said as she submitted her complaint in December to the National Human Rights Commission. "I am demanding that we, the women of the mountains, have the right to decide our lives, to vote and run for office, because the constitution says we have these rights."

Protests in Lebanon leave 7 dead

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP)—Protesters angry about electricity rationing clashed with Lebanese troops Sunday in Beirut's worst riots in a year, leaving seven people dead, hospital and security officials said.

Hundreds of Shiite Muslims opposed to the government rioted and burned tires, blocking some major roads in the Lebanese capital and its southern suburbs.

Lebanese soldiers fired into the air to disperse the crowd, but it was unclear how the deaths occurred and whether the soldiers also intentionally fired on civilians.

The army said it was investigating, and Lebanese TV stations reported that unknown snipers may have been involved in an attempt to inflame the disturbances.

Prime Minister Fuad Saniora declared Monday a national day of mourning, and schools and universities were ordered closed.

It was the Beirut area's worst rioting since clashes between Sunnis and Shiites at a university cafeteria in January 2007 left four people dead. That incident prompted the army to declare the city's first curfew in more than a decade.

Electricity cutoffs in recent months were extended for the first time to Beirut, where more than 1 million Lebanese live. More than 15 years after Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war, the country's power grid still has not been fully restored, and such protests have been common in the past few weeks, mainly in areas where the opposition has strong support.

Blair wants Mideast peace in 2008

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP)—Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair told the final session of the World Economic Forum on Sunday that he wants an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal and a pact on climate change by the end of 2008.

Sharing the same level of ambition, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Elie Wiesel called for China to open its doors to the Dalai Lama and for an end to the conflict in Sudan's Darfur region.

The final session of this year's forum seemed to shrug off any pessimism about what can be achieved in the coming months despite fears that the U.S. economic downturn could lead to a global recession.

"The mood was moderately optimistic because we have many, many opportunities," said Klaus Schwab, the forum's founder. "But if we do not address the challenges, one day even the greatest opportunities will not be enough to guarantee our continuation as humankind if you look at climate change, terrorism, poverty."

The five-day political and economic brainstorming session that brought nearly 2,500 of the world's movers and shakers to this Swiss ski resort was short on "glitz" this year - with the exception of rock star Bono and Oscar-winning actress Emma Thompson, who are both also anti-poverty campaigners.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iraqi troops poised to strike al-Qaida

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraqi army reinforcements moved Sunday into positions near the northern city of Mosul, ready to strike al-Qaida in Iraq targets in their last urban stronghold, a top Iraqi officer said. Maj. Gen. Riyad Jalal, a senior officer in the Mosul region, said the additional forces were encamping in an Iraqi base near the city, and would open an offensive against al-Qaida fighters "immediately after all the added troops arrive." Iraqi and U.S. officials have not said how many additional soldiers were headed toward Iraq's third largest city, an important trade and transportation hub, after a massive bombing there last week badly damaged a poor neighborhood, killing 38 and wounding more than 200. A senior police official was killed the next day inspecting the damage.

Hamas polices Gaza border with Egypt

RAFAH, Egypt (AP)—A smattering of Hamas-affiliated security forces, many of them bearded and dressed in blue camouflage uniforms, fanned out on both sides of the breached Gaza-Egypt border Sunday to jointly police the crossing with Egyptian guards. Though only about a dozen Hamas forces took up positions, it was their first significant action on the Egyptian side of the border in the five days since Palestinian militants blasted through the partition. Since then, tens of thousands of Gazans have flooded into Egypt to buy food, fuel and other goods made scarce by an Israeli closure of the territory.

Head of Greece's Orthodox Church dies

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greece's Orthodox Church leader, Archbishop Christodoulos, who eased centuries of tension with the Vatican but angered liberal critics who viewed him as an attention-seeking reactionary, died Monday at his home of cancer, church officials said. He was 69. Christodoulos, who headed the church for a decade, was first hospitalized in Athens in June before being diagnosed with cancer of the liver and large intestine. He spent 10 weeks in a hospital in Miami but an October liver transplant operation was canceled when doctors discovered the cancer had spread. He refused hospital treatment in the final weeks of his life. Christodoulos was elected church leader in 1998 and is credited with reinvigorating the vast institution that represents 97 percent of Greece's native born population.

Overdrive

2008 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SXT 4.0:

A family-friendly minivan

By WARREN BROWN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—I discovered families on my recent drive across the United States.

They live in small towns such as Winslow, Ariz., and Galena, Kan. They work on farms and in what factories remain in the once-mighty industrial heartland of America. They meet at local eateries such as Galena's 4 Women on the Route. In communities where businesses are struggling, where hard times seem like normal times, many of those families—husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, and a whole mess of cousins, uncles and aunts—still go to church.

When they go to church, or to athletic and social events, they usually go in bunches. It is a matter of economics as much as it is the need for fraternity. Not everyone in the family has a car or a truck. So, they share rides pretty much the way they share everything else. Their ride-sharing, more often than not, is done in sedans, minivans and wagons.

Those families are the reasons minivans still exist, and probably will remain in existence for many years to come despite those automotive sophists, me included, who erroneously have predicted their demise. The problem is that too many of us in the automotive media have been seduced by fashion and illusions of high-speed grandeur, by transient importance that isn't important. Families in those little towns are concerned with matters of greater value—with one another and the preservation, as much as possible, of a shared way of life.

They like style, which is why they like minivans such as this week's subject vehicle, the 2008 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT 4.0 with its optional, second-row Swivel 'n Go seats that can turn 180 degrees to face the third row. It is an old idea, notably used in old Volkswagen vans and buses, meant to enhance a mobile community.

But many families might prefer the base Dodge Grand Caravan SE, which is attractively styled inside and out, and which comes with a raft of standard equipment, including power locks and windows, electronic stability and traction control, MP3 player capability and lots of storage space. It is substantially improved over the previous Dodge Caravan in ergonomic design and passenger comfort. But it has lower purchase and operating cost than the tested SXT 4.0, which comes with a 251-horsepower V-6 and a six-speed automatic transmission.

The base SE is available with a 3.3-liter, 175-horsepower V-6 mated to a four-speed automatic transmission. It can run on E85—85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline—or regular unleaded gasoline. If your aim is more miles per gallon, use regular gasoline. If your goal is to reduce consumption of oil, foreign or otherwise, use E85.

But if you have the desire and the money for luxurious utility, go ahead and buy the SXT 4.0 V-6 with all of the trimmings.

THE WASHINGTON POST
The 2008 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT 4.0, very attractive inside and out, is one of the most family-friendly minivans ever.

NUTS & BOLTS

By WARREN BROWN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

COMPLAINTS
Ria and I had some trouble with the minivan's electronic key, which occasionally was difficult to remove from the ignition lock.

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING
Very good in all respects. Again, this is a minivan. Don't approach it with performance-car expectations.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT
Very attractive inside and out.

UTILITY
Remarkable. The 2008 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT and its practically identical 2008 Chrysler Town & Country sibling are the most family-friendly minivans ever.

CUP HOLDER/JUICE BOX COUNT
13.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT
Classic minivan geometry. Front engine; front-wheel drive; two front swing-out doors; two middle, power-operated sliding doors; power-operated rear liftgate.

ENGINE, TRANSMISSION IN TESTED MODEL
The optional four-liter V-6 in the Grand Caravan SXT has a maximum 251 horsepower at 6,000 rpm and 259 foot-pounds of torque at 4,200 rpm. The engine is mated to a six-speed automatic transmission.

CAPACITIES
There are seats for seven. Maximum luggage capacity with rear seats up is 32.3 cubic feet; with rear seats down, it's 140 cubic feet. The Dodge Grand Caravan SXT can be equipped to tow 3,600 pounds. Fuel capacity is 20 gallons. Regular unleaded gasoline works fine.

MILEAGE
We averaged 15 miles per gallon in the city and nearly 23 on the highway.

SAFETY
Four-wheel-antilock brakes, side and head air bags, and electronic stability and traction control are standard.

PRICE
Base price on the 2008 Grand Caravan SXT is $26,805. Dealer's invoice price on that model is $24,556. Price as tested is $38,595, including $11,010 in options and a $780 destination charge. Dealer's price as tested is $35,025. Rebates are possible here. Prices sourced from Chrysler, www.edmunds.com, and www.cars.com, an affiliate of The Washington Post.

PURSE-STRINGS NOTE
The best value here is in the middle—the Grand Caravan SE with the 3.8-liter, 197-horsepower V-6, as opposed to the SE with the 3.3-liter, 175-hp V-6. Compare with Toyota Sienna and Honda Odyssey.

CRUISIN'

Chrysler Imperials

By GREG ZYLA
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: Greg, I've always been a fan of the Chrysler Imperials and Chrysler Cordobas. I owned an Imperial in the '60s and a Cordoba in 1976, and I wish I had kept the Imperial. Anyway, do you remember the 1981 to 1983 Imperials? What are they worth today?—David P., Port Richey, Fla.

A: David, I sure do remember those 1981-1983 Imperials, which made a return to production after being absent from Chrysler's lineup since 1975. The 1981-83 Imperials were built when Chrysler was facing major financial trouble, and although only 10,981 were ever built, it was a great-looking and well-equipped car.

Surprisingly, Imperials were built on the Aspen/Volare platform and stretched to parallel Chrysler marketing theory, along with shared mechanicals, with its sibling Chrysler Cordoba. Cordoba debuted in 1975 and sold a stunning 150,105 units its first year!

So it's no coincidence you loved both cars! Personally, as nice as Cordoba was, I feel a large part of its success came from those famous television commercials that featured actor Ricardo Montalban touting Cordoba's "Corinthian leather."

The Imperial came with a fuel-injected 318 engine, which developed just 140 government-restrained horsepower, and lots of luxury items. Key features included Mark Cross interiors, electronic digital instrumentation, clearcoat paints and a fully loaded car for $18,311. The only option available in 1981 was a power sunroof.

The first year found just 7,225 1981 Imperials built. Sales dropped to 2,329 in 1982 and only 1,427 the final year. The economy wasn't good, consumers wanted gas savers and Chrysler was busy getting ready for K-Car introduction. In the end, the Imperial went away quietly.

Today, an Imperial from 1981-83 in good condition is probably worth about $5,500 to $6,500, although I feel in the future, these prices will escalate nicely.

Write to Greg Zyla in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send an e-mail to gzyla@ptd.net.

Study: Drivers on cells clogging traffic

WASHINGTON (AP)—Drivers talking on cell phones are probably making your commute even longer, concludes a new study.

Motorists yakking away, even with handsfree devices, crawl about 2 mph slower on commuter-clogged roads than people not on the phone, and they just don't keep up with the flow of traffic, said study author David Strayer, a psychology professor at the University of Utah.

If you commute by car an hour a day, it could all add around 20 hours a year to your commute, Strayer said.

"The distracted driver tends to drive slower and have delayed reactions," said Strayer, whose study will be presented later this month to the Transportation Research Board of the National Academy of Sciences. "People kind of get stuck behind that person and it makes everyone pay the price of that distracted driver."

Strayer's study, based on three dozen students driving in simulators, found that drivers on cell phones are far more likely to stick behind a slow car in front of them and change lanes about 20 percent less often than drivers not on the phone.

Overall, cell phone drivers took about 3 percent longer to drive the same highly traffic-clogged route (and about 2 percent longer to drive a medium congested route) than people who were not on the phone. About one in 10 drivers is on the phone so it really adds up, said Strayer, whose earlier studies have found slower reaction times from drivers on the phones and compared those reaction times to people legally drunk.

Combine those factors and Strayer figures distracted drivers are adding an extra 5 to 10 percent of time to your commute.

It's simply a matter of brain overload. Your frontal cortex can handle only so many tasks at one time, so you slow down, Strayer said.

Generally the study makes sense, but what happens to students in a simulator may not translate to real world conditions, said Anne McCartt, senior vice president of the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. Further, she said the study itself points out how distracted drivers are slower, but is short on calculations on just how it affects other drivers.

Wireless phone companies encourage people not to talk on the phone in bad traffic, said Joe Farren, a spokesman for the cellular phone industry's trade association. But he said he couldn't comment on the study because he had not had a chance to go over it.

Life & Style

‘No Country’ wins key SAG prizes

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—”No Country for Old Men” emerged as the Oscars favorite Sunday by taking top honors for overall cast along with Javier Bardem’s supporting-actor prize at the Screen Actors Guild Awards, the lone gathering of A-list stars in an awards season hobbled by the writers strike.

Bardem had kind words for Joel and Ethan Coen, who directed “No Country” and adapted the screenplay from Cormac McCarthy’s novel.

“Thank you, guys, for hiring me, and thank you for taking the hard work of choosing the good takes,” Bardem said. The native of Spain won the same honor at the Golden Globes, and has been universally praised for his chilling role as a relentless killer tracking a fortune in missing drug money.

“This is Javier Bardem’s 497th award,” said co-star Josh Brolin in the acceptance speech for the film’s cast prize, the equivalent of best picture honors. “It’s sad, sad for the rest of us.”

Past Oscar winners Daniel Day-Lewis of “There Will Be Blood” and Julie Christie of “Away From Her” won the lead-acting honors, also giving them a boost to win the same trophies at the Academy Awards on Feb. 24. Day-Lewis dedicated his win to Heath Ledger, the 28-year-old Australian actor who was found dead in his Manhattan loft last week.

AP

From left, Tess Harper, Garret Dillahunt, Tommy Lee Jones, Josh Brolin, Woody Harrelson, and Javier Bardem hold their awards for outstanding performance by a cast in a motion picture for their work in “No Country for Old Men” at the 14th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards on Sunday, Jan. 27, 2008, in Los Angeles.

“In ‘Brokeback Mountain,’ he was unique, he was perfect,” said Day-Lewis, already an Oscar winner for “My Left Foot.” “That scene in the trailer at the end of the film is as moving as anything I think I’ve ever seen.”

Two weeks after the glam-free Golden Globes “news conference,” the presence Sunday night of blue-chip Hollywood stars such as presenter Tom Cruise, a pregnant Cate Blanchett, and Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie (in a flowing, is-she-or-isn’t-she dress that did little to quell twins rumors) reminded that the SAGs may stand as the highlight of Hollywood’s film-honors season—if the writers strike undermines the Oscars, that is.

But the SAG show itself was generally free of labor talk, with only Christie addressing the matter openly among the winners.

“It’s lovely to receive an award from your own union,” she said, “especially at a time when we’re being so forcefully reminded how important unions are.”

Actors bid fond farewell to one of TV’s most-acclaimed series ever as “The Sopranos” swept the dramatic categories, grabbing the lead-acting honors for James Gandolfini and Edie Falco and, minutes later, the overall cast award.

Ruby Dee won supporting actress for “American Gangster.” She shared fond thoughts of her late husband and frequent acting partner, Ossie Davis, who died in 2005.

“I accept it also for my husband Ossie,” the 83-year-old Dee said, “because he’s working on things up there.”

Though its last episode aired several months ago, “The Sopranos” grabbed all three TV drama categories to open the ceremony.

“Ten years ... I wish for everybody in every walk of life, but particularly for actors, to have the opportunity to have a work experience like I have had with my family here,” Falco said. “You’re not supposed to get this attached because it’s a transient business. I have fallen in love with these people and I don’t know how you walk away from that.”

Minutes before, Gandolfini took the first trophy of the night in a star-studded ceremony—something of an anomaly in this strike-hobbled awards season.

“This is our last official act as Sopranos together,” Gandolfini said. “Here’s to you guys. Thank you very much. It’s been 10 years. It’s been an honor. That’s all I can say.”

For comedy series, Alec Baldwin and Tina Fey were the lead-acting winners for “30 Rock,” while “The Office” won for best ensemble.

Normally a lesser cousin to the Golden Globes and Oscars, the SAG Awards could end up being the biggest celebration this time around: The swanky Globes were canceled because of a strike by the Writers Guild of America, which refused to let its members work on the show, and the fate of the Oscars on Feb. 24 is in question because of the same labor quarrel.

Not so for the SAG honors. The actors union has been steadfast in support of striking writers, who in turn gave their blessing to the SAG ceremony.

Instead of the debacle for the Globes, which were curtailed to a star-free news conference after actors and filmmakers made it clear they would not cross writers’ picket lines, the SAG ceremony came off with a full complement of Hollywood A-listers.

“We’re really proud of the solidarity we’ve built with the Writers Guild,” said Alan Rosenberg, SAG president. “Our members have understood that and taken it to heart. I was really moved by their decision not to go to the Golden Globes, our nominees. It’s tough times, but it’s been gratifying, as well.”

Backstage, Fey said the writers strike leaves “30 Rock” at risk since the show is a critical success but not necessarily a huge hit with viewers.

“We are exactly the kind of show that’s put in jeopardy by the strike,” Fey said.

The obligatory package of clips to honor stars who died in the past year took on more immediacy, ending with a moment from “Brokeback Mountain” featuring Ledger. The cause of his death had not yet been determined.

The guild presented its life-achievement award to Charles Durning, whose credits include “The Sting,” “Tootsie” and “O Brother, Where Art Thou?”

“There’s nothing more gratifying than having an achievement award from one’s peers,” Durning said. “Over 50 years ago, I had the honor of working with some of the best actors, directors and writers in our industry. It’s been a dream come true.”

SAG AWARD WINNERS

A complete list of winners of the 14th annual Screen Actors Guild Awards:

MOVIES:

Actor: Daniel Day-Lewis, “There Will Be Blood.”
Actress: Julie Christie, “Away From Her.”
Supporting actor: Javier Bardem, “No Country for Old Men.”
Supporting actress: Ruby Dee, “American Gangster.”
Cast: “No Country for Old Men.”
Stunt ensemble: “The Bourne Ultimatum.”

■ ■ ■

TELEVISION:

Actor in a movie or miniseries: Kevin Kline, “As You Like It.”
Actress in a movie or miniseries: Queen Latifah, “Life Support.”
Actor in a drama series: James Gandolfini, “The Sopranos.”
Actress in a drama series: Edie Falco, “The Sopranos.”
Actor in a comedy series: Alec Baldwin, “30 Rock.”
Actress in a comedy series: Tina Fey, “30 Rock.”
Drama series cast: “The Sopranos.”
Comedy series cast: “The Office.”
Stunt ensemble: “24.”

■ ■ ■

Lifetime Achievement: Charles Durning

Day-Lewis dedicates award to Ledger

AP

Daniel Day-Lewis poses with the award for outstanding performance by a male actor in a leading role for his work in “There Will Be Blood” at the 14th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards on Sunday, Jan. 27, 2008, in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Daniel Day-Lewis dedicated his Screen Actors Guild Award to Heath Ledger.

Day-Lewis, who was honored Sunday as leading actor for his performance in “There Will Be Blood,” gave an acceptance speech that echoed comments he made last week about Ledger, the 28-year-old Australian actor whose death stunned Hollywood, on “The Oprah Winfrey Show.”

“In ‘Brokeback Mountain’ he was unique, he was perfect,” Day-Lewis said. “That scene in the trailer at the end of the film is as moving as anything I think I’ve ever seen.”

Backstage, the 50-year-old Day-Lewis said he never met Ledger but the actor’s death was all he had been thinking about recently.

“I thought he was beautiful. I just had a very strong feeling I would have liked him very much as a man,” he said. “I admired him very much. I’m absolutely certain he would have done many wonderful things in his life.”

Several prescription drugs were found in the apartment where Ledger’s body was found Tuesday by his masseuse. The cause of death is awaiting toxicology tests.

During the awards show religious protesters gathered across the street from the Shrine Auditorium, toting signs that read, “Heath’s in Hell,” a reference to his “Brokeback Mountain” role in which he portrayed a gay cowboy.

“We should leave him alone and we should leave his family alone to suffer their unimaginable grief in private, and it’s not going to happen,” Day-Lewis said backstage. “We should just stop encouraging people to have greater and greater interest in raking over every detail, which is none of our business anyhow.”

Ledger’s photo from his Oscar-nominated role in 2005’s “Brokeback Mountain” closed the SAG award show’s in-memoriam segment.

‘Meet the Spartans’ tops box office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The epic spoof “Meet the Spartans” narrowly conquered “Rambo” to nab the top spot in the weekend box office, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The 20th Century Fox movie, which lampooned last year’s epic blockbuster “300,” took in an estimated $18.7 million in its weekend debut. It edged out “Rambo,” a Lionsgate release starring and directed by Sylvester Stallone, which took in $18.2 million.

“This was a very tight race for the No. 1 spot,” said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box office tracker Media By Numbers. “I think we tend to underestimate films like ‘Meet the Spartans.’ Fox has really locked onto something that’s extremely popular.”

“Spartans” tells the tale of hero Leonidas who leads a group of 13 Spartans to defend against the invading Persians - including Rocky Balboa, Paris Hilton and other pop culture icons. It was directed by Jason Friedberg and Aaron Seltzer, who produced the parodies “Epic Movie” and “Date Movie.”

“Spartans” was popular among teenagers and young adults, who made up about 75 percent of the audience. The film was rated PG-13, while R-rated “Rambo” was popular with older men.

“We are thrilled with the numbers,” said Bert Livingston, senior vice president of distribution at Fox. “We made it for young people and they came.”

Harvey Weinstein, co-chairman of the Weinstein Co., which co-distributed “Rambo,” said he expected the film’s mature audience to sustain its popularity at the box office.

“Meet the Spartans” was popular among teenagers and young adults, who made up about 75 percent of the audience.

“I think we’ll have a great hold,” Weinstein said.

“Rambo” is the fourth installment of the trademark franchise and stars Stallone as the eponymous Vietnam vet spending his retirement in Thailand when a group of missionaries enlists his help in aiding a village endangered by civil war in Myanmar.

The top 12 movies raked in $117.8 million, up 32 percent from the same weekend last year, when Fox’s “Epic Movie” led the box office with $18.6 million.

Last weekend’s monster hit, “Cloverfield,” which set a January opening record with $41 million, was down steeply at No. 4 with $12.7 million, a 68 percent decline. “27 Dresses,” starring Katherine Heigl as the perpetual bridesmaid was third with $13.6 million, and the new thriller “Untraceable,” featuring Diane Lane as an FBI cybercrime investigator, rounded out the top five.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Media By Numbers LLC. Final figures will be released Monday.

1. “Meet the Spartans,” $18.7 million
2. “Rambo,” $18.2 million
3. “27 Dresses,” $13.6 million
4. “Cloverfield,” $12.7 million
5. “Untraceable,” $11.2 million
6. “Juno,” $10.3 million
7. “The Bucket List,” $10.2 million
8. “There Will be Blood,” $4.9 million
9. “National Treasure: Book of Secrets,” $4.7 million
10. “Mad Money,” $4.6 million

Coens win for ‘No Country for Old Men’

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Joel and Ethan Coen won the top prize from the Directors Guild of America on Saturday for “No Country for Old Men,” giving them the inside track for the same honor at the Academy Awards—assuming the Oscars go on amid the writers strike.

“Oh, we get two of them,” Ethan Coen said when he and his brother were presented with their trophies.

The Coens were only the second two-person team to win the Directors Guild honor, following Robert Wise and Jerome Robbins for 1961’s “West Side Story.”

“Ethan and I have a bookshelf in our office where we keep various plaques and such that we’ve gotten over the years that we call our ego corner,” Joel Coen said.

When brother Ethan is having a bad day, he goes over with Windex and silver polish and “spit shines his medals for an hour or two,” Joel Coen said. “It makes him feel better. This is a really big one, in every respect. It’s going to keep him busy.”

As with Martin Scorsese, who as last year’s winner for “The Departed” presented the award to the Coens, the Directors Guild winner almost always goes on to win the same prize at the Oscars.

Adapted from Cormac McCarthy’s novel, “No Country for Old Men” stars Josh Brolin as a good old Texan who makes off with loot from a drug deal gone bad, Javier Bardem as a ruthless killer on his trail, and Tommy Lee Jones as a sheriff tracking both men.

With the Directors Guild honor, “No Country” also may emerge as the favorite to win best picture at the Oscars.

The fate of the Oscars remains uncertain, though. Writers, who have been on strike for nearly three months, have refused to work on some major awards shows, among them the Golden Globes, whose ceremony was scrapped for lack of stars.

The Coens’ former cinematographer, Barry Sonnenfeld, also was a guild winner. Sonnenfeld, whose films include the “Men in Black” series, won a small-screen prize, receiving the award for television comedy for directing an episode of “Pushing Daisies.”

“Mad Men” earned the TV drama honor for Alan Taylor, while Yves Simoneau won the TV movie award for “Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee.”

New Miss America once battled anorexia

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Just three years ago, newly crowned Miss America Kirsten Haglund was eating tiny portions of food and became so thin her concerned parents “dragged me to the doctor.”

Haglund

Haglund was diagnosed with anorexia, and the lack of nutrition caused her collar bones to stick out, her heart rate to drop and her relationships to suffer.

“I would feel fatigued walking up six stairs,” the 19-year-old Haglund said Sunday, a day after being crowned Miss America 2008. “I was a completely different person. It’s not a pretty sight.”

Haglund plans to spend her yearlong reign, trying to raise awareness of eating disorders, promoting the pagaent and helping the Children’s Miracle Network while maintaining a healthy lifestyle and exercise.

To win her crown, the Farmington Hills, Mich., native sang “Over the Rainbow” and walked a crowd-pleasing strut in a black and gold bikini to clinch the title.

“You have to have curves,” she said proudly. “You can’t look like a stick-thin model.”

The aspiring Broadway star even ate the silver medallion chocolates left on her pillow in her suite at the host site, the Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino.

“Yes, oh my gosh, yes,” she said. “I love chocolate. Chocolates are a girl’s best friend.”

The 5-foot 8-inch blonde said she doesn’t disclose her weight to avoid setting standards for youths obsessed with getting lighter.

She said she stopped pursuing her dream to become a professional ballerina to escape an environment in which she was rewarded for being slim and an industry that Haglund said sweeps concerns about eating disorders under the rug.

The National Eating Disorders Association estimates eating disorders affect 10 million girls and women and about 1 million boys and men in the United States.

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Meet the Spartans

Friday		4:20	7:10	9:35
Saturday	1:15	4:20	7:10	9:35
Sunday	1:15	4:20	7:10	
Mon thru Thurs		4:20	7:10	

Diedrich Bader, Kevin Sorbo
Comedy • Rated PG13

Synopsis

From the creators of Scary Movie and Date Movie comes this tongue-in-cheek parody of the sword-and-sandal epics, dubbed Meet the Spartans. The 20th Century Fox production is written and directed by the filmmaking team of Jason Friedberg and Aaron Seltzer. Sure Leonidas may have nothing more than a cape and some leather underwear to protect him from the razor sharp swords of his Persian enemies, but that won't stop the brave leader and his team of thirteen warriors from defending their beloved homeland against a powerful invading force that includes the likes of a mutant Paris Hilton, the Transformers, the Ghost Rider and Rocky Balboa.

Sakal, Sakali, Saklolo

Friday		4:30	7:05	9:55
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:05	9:55
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:05	
Mon thru Thurs		4:30	7:05	

Judy Ann Santos, Ryan Agoncillo
Comedy, Romance • Rated NR

Synopsis

Angie (Judy Ann Santos) and Jed (Ryan Agoncillo) are first-time parents who experience the joys and pains of raising a child. They realize that parenthood is extremely demanding that they learn to sacrifice their own interests for their baby. One day, Jed has to go abroad for a business convention. Angie decides to go along, leaving their child with their friends. This is when their mothers (Gloria Diaz and Gina Pareño) come in and take turns taking care of their child, which led to a total disaster.

★ ★ ★

Cloverfield

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:45
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:45
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Michael Stahl David, Mike Vogel
Comedy, Drama • Rated PG13

27 Dresses

Friday		4:15	7:20	10:00
Saturday	1:10	4:15	7:20	10:00
Sunday	1:10	4:15	7:20	
Mon thru Thurs		4:15	7:20	

Katherine Heigl, James Marsden
Romantic Comedy • Rated PG13

The Bucket List

Friday		4:10	7:15	9:30
Saturday	1:20	4:10	7:15	9:30
Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:15	
Mon thru Thurs		4:10	7:15	

Jack Nicholson, Morgan Freeman
Comedy, Drama • Rated PG13

Mad Money

Friday		4:25	7:30	9:50
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:30	9:50
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:30	
Mon thru Thurs		4:25	7:30	

Diane Keaton, Queen Latifah
Comedy, Drama • Rated PG13

One Missed Call

Friday		@	7:25	9:40
Saturday	@	@	7:25	9:40
Sunday	@	@		
Mon thru Thurs		@		

Edward Burns, Shannyn Sossamon
Horror, Remake • Rated PG13

Alvin & The Chipmunks

Friday		4:05	@	@
Saturday	1:05	4:05	@	@
Sunday	1:05	4:05	@	
Mon thru Thurs		4:05	@	

Jason Lee, Cameron Richardson
Comedy, Family • Rated PG

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Companies banking on Super Bowl ads

NEW YORK (AP) -- The story lines are unabashedly goofy. Cavemen invent the wheel to transport a beer cooler made of stone, and a car buyer enlists the help of a tribal warrior in case he needs some extra negotiating leverage at the dealership.

For most of us, Super Bowl ads make fine entertainment. But for the advertisers who make and buy them, Sunday is white-knuckle time.

The blogging boom has created crowds of armchair critics; the price for a 30-second spot is up again, to $2.7 million; and a writers strike has wiped out many other opportunities to reach mass audiences by putting scripted dramas like "Desperate Housewives" on hold.

Even against odds like these, many major marketing powers and even a few first-timers couldn't resist the opportunity of reaching more than 90 million people in a single shot - something that's increasingly hard to do in any medium.

Advertisers still love the Internet for its ability to deliver measured results from click-throughs and carve audiences into tiny segments. But only the largest of television's "events"—such as the Super Bowl, the Olympics, the Oscars and the Grammys—have the muscle to pull in tens of millions of people in real time.

"There are so few media vehicles out there that reach that size audience that there's still a big value in not only reaching so many people but in such an engaging manner," said Andy Donchin, director of national broadcast at Carat, a major buyer and planner of advertising.

Add the extra buzz created by the possibility of the New England Patriots making history with an undefeated season, and advertisers have a lot on the line. The placement is great if they have a winning ad, not so great if the ad tanks. Last year's viewership of 93.2 million was close to the all-time record of 94.1 million set in 1996, and many believe that record could be surpassed this year.

The results from online advertising often confirm the value of hitting big audiences with TV, Donchin said, because advertisers can measure the upswing in traffic to Web sites after an ad is broadcast.

The Super Bowl continues to draw new advertisers, including Planters packaged nut company, part of Kraft Foods Inc., as well as Cars.com, an online auto classified advertising company co-owned by the newspaper publishers Gannett Co., McClatchy Co., Tribune Co., Washington Post Co. and Belo Corp.

AP

Limited Brands provided this screenshot from a Victoria's Secret ad scheduled to run during Super Bowl XLII on Sunday, Feb. 3, 2008.

No neophyte in the advertising world, Kraft decided a Super Bowl spot was well worth the money last year as it began repositioning Planters beyond the $3 billion packaged nuts business to compete in the $20 billion market of salted snacks, which includes potato chips, pretzels and popcorn.

Those attract fairly different age and gender groups, says Allan Lindsay, senior director of marketing for salty snacks at Kraft. Nuts tend to be bought by adults 45 and older, while salty snacks tend to be bought by people ages 35-55, and men more than women—just the kind of people who watch the Super Bowl.

"If we really wanted to accelerate our growth, we needed to think bigger," Lindsay said. "We wanted the big platform to get our message out there ... and it's a natural venue to do that."

Lindsay, like many other advertisers, offered hints about his ad, but not the full story line. It will feature men being "drawn" to Planters' nuts, he said.

Tire maker Bridgestone Firestone North America, another first-timer, is jumping in with two spots and sponsorship of the halftime show. One ad features a car accelerating toward Richard Simmons as he dances on a road at night. In the other, a woman screams as the car she's riding in approaches a squirrel nibbling on an acorn.

Other big advertisers are venturing back to the Super Bowl after long absences. Audi, a subsidiary of Volkswagen AG, is coming back to the game after nearly 20 years, with a Godfather-themed spot. And Coca-Cola Co., whose main brand was back in the game last year for the first time since 1998, will have three or four spots this year.

Katie Bayne, chief marketing officer for Coca-Cola Co. in North America, declined to divulge details but said the company is currently testing 11 ads with viewers and will pick a winner to run on game day—a strategy that's also used by Anheuser-Busch Inc., traditionally the biggest advertiser in the game.

Bayne said Coke viewed TV events like the Super Bowl, big NASCAR races and the NCAA college basketball tournament as "critical" for getting the company's marketing message out.

Another theme cropping up again this year is amateur talent. The NFL itself ran a contest among fans last year to come up with ad ideas, and this year solicited league players to pitch ideas for a spot based on how they got into the sport. Likewise Doritos, which charmed viewers last year with spots made by amateur filmmakers, is running a contest where undiscovered musicians submit video performances of original songs. And Pepsico used its own employees in its Super Bowl ad.

Ratings from the game, being broadcast from Phoenix, are sure to boost News Corp.'s Fox network, which is already well-positioned thanks to football and "American Idol," a ratings powerhouse unaffected by the writers strike because it's not scripted. Fox is getting as much as $2.7 million for a 30-second a spot, up from the $2.6 million CBS Corp.'s CBS network got last year.

Ledger's body flown to Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Heath Ledger's body was taken to a celebrity mortuary in Los Angeles where family members and friends paid their respects, according to a report published Sunday.

The "Brokeback Mountain" actor's body was at the Pierce Brothers Westwood Village Memorial Park and Mortuary on Saturday, where it was taken en route to Ledger's native Australia, the New York Daily News reported.

A call to the mortuary was not immediately returned early Sunday. The arrangements were to be private, according to Ledger's publicist.

Ledger, 28, died Tuesday in his New York apartment. His body was moved from a police-barricaded funeral home in Manhattan amid a swarm of cameras and reporters Friday afternoon.

Several people were seen entering the chapel where Ledger's coffin lay, including the actor's former girlfriend, Naomi Watts, the paper reported. The Daily News and http://www.etonline.com said members of Ledger's family also visited the mortuary.

The cause of death will not be known for at least several more days, after medical examiners complete toxicology tests. Authorities suspect a possible drug overdose. Several prescription drugs were found in the Manhattan apartment where Ledger's body was found.

Public hero is private abuser of new wife who loves him

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Rick," sometimes hits me and calls me names. It hurts me because he's my life, and I love him to death. When I try to tell friends about it, they don't believe me because Rick is a firefighter. They all say, "I don't think he's like that," and when I tell them he IS like that, they get mad at me.

Rick and I haven't been married long. I love him with all my heart and don't want to leave him, but I just don't know what I should do. Please help me. I am all alone in this, and I need some help.

—WOUNDED IN WEST VIRGINIA

DEAR WOUNDED: There is a name for people—male and female—who hit their spouses and call them names. It's ABUSER.

I don't know whether Rick has no conscience or no control. But what you must do, for your own safety, is pick up the phone and call the National Domestic Violence Hotline. The toll-free number is: (800) 799-7233.

I promise you that once you begin talking, the person on the other end of the line will believe you and will give you a referral to the help you so desperately need. Please do it now, before Rick really injures you, because it's only a matter of time until he does.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a 61-year-old man who has been faithful in his 35-year marriage. But I am very unhappy because I am continually hounded by my wife about previous mistakes I have committed. The incidents involved alcohol and smoking, and occurred many years ago. She has never forgiven me and brings up the subject frequently.

My wife has withdrawn sex from me for 20 years because of her jealousy about my love for my mother. (Mom died in 1994.)

I am so alone, but my wife will not seek counseling. If someone would just hug me. I feel like I'm huddled in a corner and…

—FREEZING TO DEATH IN KANSAS

DEAR FREEZING TO DEATH: A sentence should fit the crime, and after 35 years you have been punished enough. Because your wife refuses to seek counseling to heal this fractured marriage doesn't mean that you shouldn't talk to a counselor. It's something you should have done years ago.

If you are reluctant to do it for yourself, then do it for your wife. You're not the only partner in this relationship who is huddled in a corner freezing. So is she, even if it's by her own choice.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 21-year-old college student. My problem is, I have no credit. My family was always adamant about my not getting a credit card because they were afraid I'd go overboard. However, I'm always careful with my money.

My worry now is that I won't be able to buy a home in the future because I won't be able to get a loan due to lack of credit. How does a person go about getting credit?

—CREDITLESS IN THE USA

DEAR CREDITLESS: Do you have a bank account? If so, contact your bank and inquire about applying for a credit card. In the beginning, your credit limit will be low. However, as you pay your bills on time, your credit limit will rise. This is how a person establishes credit.

If you have full-time employment, do not default on your bills and deposit money into your savings account on a regular basis, in time I am sure your bank will be willing to help you finance a home.

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

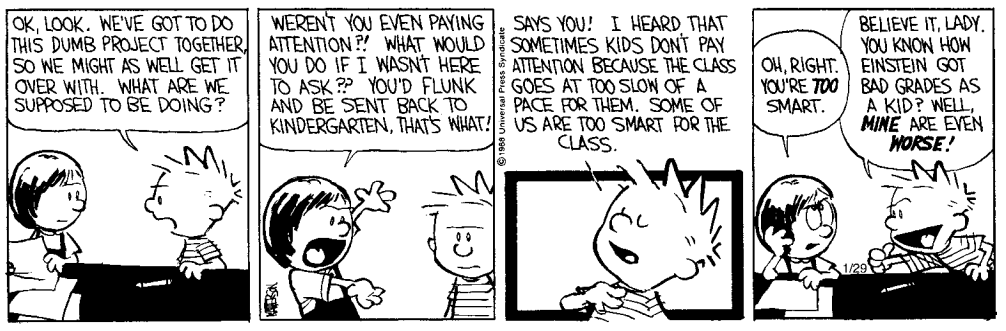
■ ■ ■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


OK, LOOK. WE'VE GOT TO DO THIS DUMB PROJECT TOGETHER, SO WE MIGHT AS WELL GET IT OVER WITH. WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO BE DOING?
WEREN'T YOU EVEN PAYING ATTENTION?! WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF I WASN'T HERE TO ASK?? YOU'D FLUNK AND BE SENT BACK TO KINDERGARTEN, THAT'S WHAT!
SAYS YOU! I HEARD THAT SOMETIMES KIDS DON'T PAY ATTENTION BECAUSE THE CLASS GOES AT TOO SLOW OF A PACE FOR THEM. SOME OF US ARE TOO SMART FOR THE CLASS.
OH, RIGHT. YOU'RE TOO SMART.
BELIEVE IT, LADY. YOU KNOW HOW EINSTEIN GOT BAD GRADES AS A KID? WELL, MINE ARE EVEN WORSE!
1/29

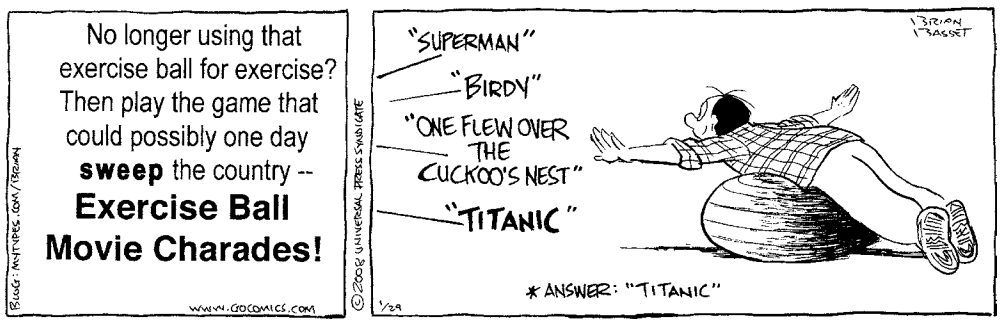
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

YOU'VE BEEN LYING LIKE THAT FOR HOURS...
DON'T YOU EVER WORRY ABOUT PIGEONS?
I LAUGH AT DANGER
JIM DAVIS 1-29
Text GARFIELD to 26642 US ONLY
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


No longer using that exercise ball for exercise? Then play the game that could possibly one day sweep the country -- Exercise Ball Movie Charades!
www.GOCOMICS.com
"SUPERMAN"
"BIRDY"
"ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST"
"TITANIC"
* ANSWER: "TITANIC"
BRIAN BASSET
1/29

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

YOUR HONOR, WE THE JURY FIND THE DEFENDANT NOT GUILTY.
No. WE SAID 'GUILTY.'
SORRY, COUSIN EARL. I TRIED TO GET YOU OFF.
1-29
Glenn McCoy
www.gocomics.com

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

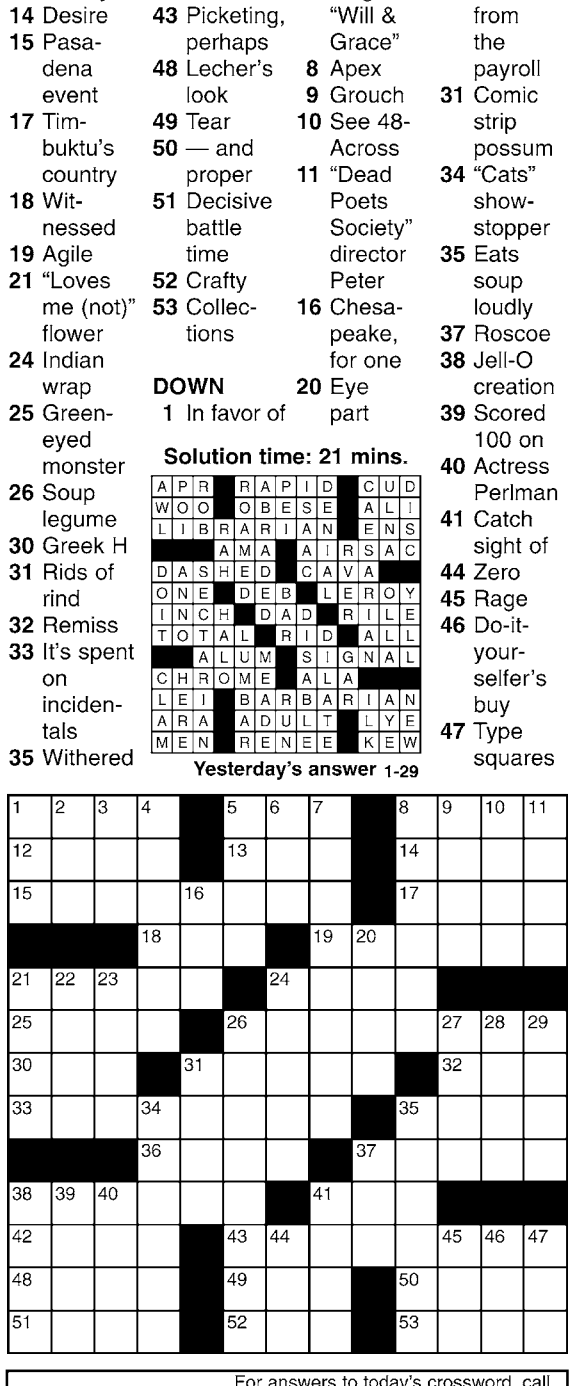
ACROSS
1 Locate
5 Workout venue
8 Garbage barge
12 Smell
13 Romanian money
14 Desire
15 Pasadena event
17 Timbuktu's country
18 Witnessed
19 Agile
21 "Loves me (not)" flower
24 Indian wrap
25 Green-eyed monster
26 Soup legume
30 Greek H
31 Rids of rind
32 Remiss
33 It's spent on incidentals
35 Withered
36 "Zounds!"
37 Pituitary, e.g.
38 Woodchuck's cousin
41 Water (Fr.)
42 Dos cubed
43 Picketing, perhaps
48 Lecher's look
49 Tear
50 — and proper
51 Decisive battle time
52 Crafty
53 Collections

DOWN
1 In favor of
2 Altar affirmative
3 Ph. bk. data
4 Stylish
5 Radiate
6 Evergreen
7 Megan of "Will & Grace"
8 Apex
9 Grouch
10 See 48-Across
11 "Dead Poets Society" director Peter
16 Chesapeake, for one
20 Eye part
21 Profound
22 Opposed to
23 Terrible guy
24 Velocity
26 D.C. 100
27 Entreaty
28 Deserve
29 Cut from the payroll
31 Comic strip possum
34 "Cats" showstopper
35 Eats soup loudly
37 Roscoe
38 Jell-O creation
39 Scored 100 on
40 Actress Perlman
41 Catch sight of
44 Zero
45 Rage
46 Do-it-yourselfer's buy
47 Type squares

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	P	R		R	A	P	I	D		C	U	D
W	O	O		O	B	E	S	E		A	L	I
L	I	B	R	A	R	I	A	N		E	N	S
			A	M	A		A	I	R	S	A	C
D	A	S	H	E	D		C	A	V	A		
O	N	E		D	E	B		L	E	R	O	Y
I	N	C	H		D	A	D		R	I	L	E
T	O	T	A	L		R	I	D		A	L	L
		A	L	U	M		S	I	G	N	A	L
C	H	R	O	M	E		A	L	A			
L	E	I		B	A	R	B	A	R	I	A	N
A	R	A		A	D	U	L	T		L	Y	E
M	E	N		R	E	N	E	E		K	E	W

Yesterday's answer 1-29



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jonny Lang, 27; Heather Graham, 38; Oprah Winfrey, 54; Tom Selleck, 63

Happy Birthday: This year, you must stabilize your home, family and financial situation and also find something to do that makes you happy. Try a hobby or a form of entertainment that doesn't cost too much but will help you relax. You will find it easier to concentrate and thus accomplish the goals you set. Your numbers are 1, 8, 15, 22, 31, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Get things done, especially if it will influence your reputation. You can't leave anything to chance or take anything or anyone for granted today. It is important to choose your words wisely when communicating about personal matters. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You can make a life-changing, professional move. Look for the perfect position. This is not the day to sell yourself short but instead the time to be bold and very confident. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Put time and money into your place of residence. Check over your investments and look at any long-term contracts and agreements. You can cut costs if you renegotiate your position. A settlement can be finalized. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): If you can see your way to accept change, you will end up in a far better position by the end of the day. Concentrate on love and you will score big with someone you meet or with the person you are currently engaged with. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Today you may have to spill the beans and give in to the questions being asked. If you don't, your evasiveness will work against you, making you look bad. Be honest and straightforward. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Get in the mood to enjoy and have fun because love is in the stars and you won't want to miss out on an enjoyable and entertaining time. Make plans to do something special with your partner or attend an event where you can meet a new partner if you are single. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't waste time trying to fix problems you have with family or the people you live with. Nothing will be resolved and arguments will lead to more trouble. Instead, get out and do something you enjoy and you'll meet new friends. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Nothing will go right at home if you are pushy. Focus on working to make things more comfortable or livable but not at the expense of arguing with someone you care about. Put your efforts into what will please the people you care most about. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You may be fooling the people around you but it's time you stopped fooling yourself. Decide if your present course is really what you want. A new direction will lead to an interesting connection. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You've got everyone's attention so explain how you see things unfolding. You can make good financial decisions that will help your money grow. You can close deals, take care of any issues concerning loved ones and sign or formulate contracts with ease. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't be too trusting of anyone who wants to help you take care of your cash. You are far better off keeping tabs on what is spent and what is invested. A personal matter may confuse you if you don't ask the right questions. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Being argumentative will work against you but taking action and showing what you can do will be proof you have what it takes. You'll leave an impression that will lead to success. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a good friend and helper and will always do your best to please those around you. You will never stand by watching—you are a participant.

Eugenia's Web sites: **astroadvice.com** *for fun,* **eugenialast.com** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

	2							
		1			2			8
		4	6	8		5	2	
	1		5		6	9		
		5		2		4		
		9	4		3		7	
	5	8		3	9	1		
7			8			3		
							9	

Difficulty Level ★★ 1/29

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	5	4	3	8	9	7	1	6
7	9	6	4	1	2	8	5	3
3	8	1	5	7	6	4	9	2
4	1	5	6	2	3	9	8	7
9	3	8	7	4	1	2	6	5
6	2	7	9	5	8	1	3	4
1	4	9	2	6	5	3	7	8
5	7	3	8	9	4	6	2	1
8	6	2	1	3	7	5	4	9

Difficulty Level ★ 1/28

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LIVING ON A YACHT — Solution: 9 letters

R	Y	(T)	W	P	K	S	E	E	S	L	U	M	N	L
V	E	S	(S)	E	L	P	G	T	H	W	B	O	A	T
T	L	T	E	(E)	R	A	L	I	A	S	F	T	E	K
H	L	L	P	D	(R)	C	T	V	L	V	S	O	C	C
C	A	R	G	O	B	E	E	F	L	A	I	R	O	E
A	G	N	T	R	C	S	H	A	O	X	N	R	S	D
Y	H	S	I	F	U	I	N	C	W	R	E	D	P	N
R	J	D	D	B	R	U	L	A	A	G	M	G	I	U
L	G	E	E	E	A	R	N	E	N	E	N	L	R	S
E	M	O	T	S	U	C	R	E	H	I	B	O	T	W
P	I	A	L	S	H	E	S	V	V	O	E	U	I	E
O	W	O	L	O	K	S	W	I	M	M	I	N	G	V
R	O	U	R	L	A	I	L	E	U	F	D	G	I	I
P	R	E	P	P	U	R	S	W	L	O	W	E	R	D
S	R	E	T	R	A	H	C	S	T	S	E	U	G	S

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Anchor, Beach, Boat, Bridge, Cabin, Cargo, Charters, Coastal, Crew, Cruise, Custom, Deep, Dine, Dive, Fish, Food, Fuel, Galley, Guests, Helicopter, Hull, Jet Skis, Keel, Land, Living, Lounge, Lower, Motor, Ocean, Passenger, Platform, Private, Propel, Rear, Rest, Rise, Sail, Sauna, Shallow, Sloop, Space, Storage, Sundeck, Swimming, Tide, Trips, Upper, Vessel, Views, Water, Waves, Wind, Yacht

Yesterday's Answer: Spamming

Treasury 4 is available to order by sending check or money order for $10.95 plus $3.25 postage and handling ($14.20 total, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Universal Press Syndicate, Attn: Wonderword, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-5734, ext. 6688. Order online at upuzzles.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

As added service to our valued customers, you may now submit all your JVA placements for announcement/publication in *Saipan Tribune's* print and online edition and KZMI/KCNM at the same time. No more worries of having to go to two different locations every time you need to place job vacancy announcements. Special rates are available for JVA customers under this arrangement.

Print*	
• 1st position	$10
• 2nd position	$3
• Succeeding positions	$1

LOWER RATES! Effective Feb. 3, 2007

Combo (Print and Online)*	
• 1st position	$13
• 2nd position	$4
• Succeeding positions	$2

Radio (KCNM/KZMI)	
• Up to 6 positions	$5
• More than 6 positions	$10

*These rates apply to all vacancy announcements that include corresponding benefits and which announcements are all under the same company name.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:

- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.
- KCNM/KZMI: All ads placed on Friday (9am to 5pm) will be for Monday's radio announcement.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

FOR RENT RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water $210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

2 br furnished apartment w/ laundry facility. Beach Road. Close to beach walking path. $425/mo. Call 483-1974.

FOR SALE COMMERCIAL

Bud's Bar is now for sale $18K-$20K. Everything goes. Serious buyers only. Contact Les @ 233-1113, 898-4866

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB No.: ITB08-RDEQ-039

OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 22, 2008 **TIME: 10:30 a.m.**

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY-ROTA BRANCH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS OR BY FAX REQUEST TO (670) 664-1515.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Announcement No. 08-002

POSITION TITLE: Marketing Manager
ANNUAL SALARY: $40,000.00 - $50,000.00**
***Salary will commensurate with qualifications*
LOCATION: Saipan, CNMI
OPENING DATE: January 28, 2008
CLOSING DATE: February 11, 2008
Applications must be submitted by 5:00pm on the closing date.

Minimum Qualification Requirements: Any combination equivalent to a graduate from a recognized college or university with a Bachelor's degree in Marketing, with two (2) years of marketing experience and two (2) years of supervisory experience. Applicant must have good communication skills (verbal and written) and must be proficient with using Microsoft Office software. Applicants may be required to take a written test as part of the application process. All applicants must be a U.S. citizen or an I.R. citizen of the CNMI. Copies of identification are required upon submission of application.

HOW TO APPLY: Interested persons may contact the Marianas Visitors Authority Office at (670) 664-3200/01 or by emailing personnel@mymarianas.com for an employment application form. A completed application should be submitted together with the required documents to complete the application process no later than the closing date of this announcement. Failure to submit all the required documentation will not be considered.

MVA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

cogifate

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Find today's solution in this section

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEM MANAGER (T 3902)
Salary:$1,972.00-$2,300.00/monthly. Benefits: Medical as provided by law & workmen's compensation. Contact: L&T International Corp. @322-9006/9054/9915.

1 ACCOUNTANT (C) (T 3903)
Salary:$3.55-$6.50/hour. Benefits: Medical as provided by law & workmen's compensation. Contact: L&T International Corp. @322-9006/9054/9915.

1 ACCOUNTANT (T 3904)
Salary:$3.55-$6.00/hour. Benefits: $50.00/housing charge; free food while on duty; employer to provide medical insurance & workmans compensation. Contact: Kingfisher Corporation dba Kingfisher Golflinks @322-1100.

1 OPERATION ASST. (CADDIE) (T 3905)
Salary:$3.55/hour. $50.00/housing charge; free food while on duty; employer to provide medical insurance & workmans compensation. Contact: Kingfisher Corporation dba Kingfisher Golflinks @322-1100.

1 KITCHEN HELPER (T 3906)
Salary:$3.55/hour. $50.00/housing charge; free food while on duty; employer to provide medical insurance & workmans compensation. Contact: Kingfisher Corporation dba Kingfisher Golflinks @322-1100.

4 COOK (T 3907)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical provided & workmen's compensation. Contact: Dynamic Core Group, Inc. dba Shirley's Coffee Shop @235-5379.

$200 REWARD FOR LOST WALLET

Brown wallet lost within the vicinity of Tony Roma's, Garapan on January 25, 2008 around 5 a.m. Important documents like entry permit (#156077) and drivers license (#12222003) needed to be returned to owner. Reward of $200 will be given. No questions asked.

If found or any information, please call 285-4469.

UNITED STATES
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COUNCIL on DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
Developmental Disabilities Basic State Grant Program
Bldg. No. 1312, Capitol Hill • P.O. Box 502565, Saipan, MP 96950-2565
Tel.: (670) 664-7000 • Fax: (670) 664-7030 • Email: gddc@cnmiddcouncil.org
Website: www.cnmiddcopuncil.org

PUBLIC NOTICE
2008 First Quarterly Board of Director's Meeting

When : January 31, 2008
Where : Aqua Resort & Hotel
Time : 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

AGENDA

John Arriola, Council Chairperson, presiding:

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Call to order
2. Roll Call
3. Establish Quorum
4. Introduction of Guest(s)

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES
IV. OLD BUSINESS
1. Review of Bylaws recommended amendments by Council members and ADD
2. Call-A-Ride Rider ship Guide and Eligibility Requirement/Application
3. Election of Council Vice Chairperson

V. NEW BUSINESS
1. Review of Council membership
2. Review of Proposed Financial Management (internal control) System

VI. REPORTS:
1. Executive Director
2. Board Chairman
3. State Plan Committee, Chairperson
4. Finance Committee Chairperson
5. Board Membership Review Committee Chairperson

VII. OTHER MATTERS
1. Schedule of next Council meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

By: /s/ John Arriola
Chairperson, Council BOD

WHATZIT Solution: Think it over

1 CASHIER (T 3908)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; free food; free medical & workers compensation. Contact: Sai Chi US Int'l Inc. dba Santa Lourdes Mini-Mart @256-8808.

1 HEMODIALYSIS TECHNICIAN (T 3909)
Salary:$7.50/hour or $15,600.00/per annum. Benefits: $3,600/housing yr; $1,800/for utilities or $150.00/monthly; workman's compensation; health insurance; plus 40 hrs. paid sick leave per year. Contact: St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc. @234-2901.

2 HEMODIALYSIS TECHNICIAN, LPN (T 3910)
Salary:$7.50-$8.50/hour. Benefits: Employer provided housing; employee provided food; workers compensation; health insurance & 40 hrs. paid sick leave. Contact: St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc. @234-2901.

1 REGISTERED NURSE (SUPERVISOR) (T 3911)
Salary:$16.00/hour. Benefits: Employer provided housing; self food; workers compensation; 40 hrs. paid sick leave & health insurance. Contact: St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc. @234-2901.

1 WAITRESS/WAITER (T 3912)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Matsu Corporation @322-1019.

***NEW* Rattan Furniture**
FOR SALE
Expensive material
Call 235-4791, 433-9616, 285-7446

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

2 SINGER (T 3913)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Free housing; medical benefits & workers compensation. Contact: R&H USA Inv. Corp. Ltd. @233-0779.

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1 ADMINISTRATIVE ASST. (T 3914)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Medical benefits & workers compensation. Contact: Nenita V. Marquez dba NVM @234-3647.

---

2 WAREHOUSE WORKER (T 3915)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Onwel Manufacturing (Saipan), Ltd. @234-9522.

1 DELIVERY DRIVER (T 3916)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Onwel Manufacturing (Saipan), Ltd. @234-9522.

1 COOK (T 3917)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arrange food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by the employer. Contact: Jenner Corporation @287-8181.

1 WAITER/WAITRESS (T 3918)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arrange food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by the employer. Contact: Jenner Corporation dba Saipan Las Vegas Nightclub & Karaoke @287-8181.

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1 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (T 3919)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arrange food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by the employer. Contact: Yong Shun Corporation @233-3038.

1 MANAGER (T 3920)
Salary:$3.55-$4.05/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arrange food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by the employer. Contact: Yong Shun Corporation @233-3038.

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1 SEWER (T 3921)
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1 HOUSEWORKER (T 3922)
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1 TRACTOR-TRAILER, DRIVER (T 3923)
Salary:$3.55-$6.70/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Consol. Trans. Serv. Inc. @322-1690 (L. Base)/234-2808 (Air).

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1 GRAPHIC DESIGNER (T 3924)
Salary:$3.55-$6.50/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: L&T international Corp. @322-1690.

1 COMPUTER TECHNICIAN (T 3925)
Salary:$3.55-$4.40/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: L&T international Corp. @322-1690.

1 COMPUTER PROGRAMMER (T 3926)
Salary:$1,972.00-$2,350.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: L&T international Corp. @322-1690.

1 PROGRAMMER, SYSTEM ANALYST (T 3927)
Salary:$3.55-$5.20/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: L&T international Corp. @322-1690.

1 ACCOUNTANT (T 3928)
Salary:$3.55-$4.50/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: L&T international Corp. @322-1690.

1 ACCOUNTANT (T 3929)
Salary:$1,972.00-$2,050.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: L&T international Corp. @322-1690.

1 ACCOUNTANT (T 3930)
Salary:$3.55-$7.56/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: L&T international Corp. @322-1690.

1 ACCOUNTANT (T 3931)
Salary:$3.55-$4.50/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: L&T international Corp. @322-1690.

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1 HOUSEWORKER (T 3932)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/housing charge monthly; medical & workers compensation provided. Contact: Yuki Togawa @234-2829/28.

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1 SCUBA DIVING INSTRUCTOR (T 3933)
Salary:$634.00/monthly. Benefits: Medical expense & workers compensation employer provided. Contact: Scuba World, Inc. @322-3979.

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1 SALES REPRESENTATIVE (T 3934)
Salary:$3.05-$4.05/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: Grand International Corp.

1 SALES MANAGER (T 3935)
Salary:$3.05-$4.05/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: Grand International Corp.

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1 FARMER (T 3936)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/housing deductible; $100.00/food deductible & medical provided. Contact: Bernard V. Hofschneider @234-7158.

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1 FLORIST DESIGNER (T 3937)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing but EE pays utility; own food; medical; workmans compensation provided & provides own transportation. Contact: Rita C. Cruz dba The First Floral Shop @233-7482.

1 COMPUTER PROGRAMMER (T 3938)
Salary:$5.00-$7.00/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. @234-6267.

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2 COOK (T 3939)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical benefits. Contact: Sheu's Brothers Holding Co., Ltd. @235-6128.

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1 BARTENDER (T 3940)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Medical benefits & workers compensation. Contact: R&H USA Inv. Corp. Ltd. @233-0779.

3 WAITR ESS/WAITER (T 3941)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Medical benefits & workers compensation. Contact: R&H USA Inv. Corp. Ltd. @233-0779.

2 SINGER (T 3942)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Medical benefits & workers compensation. Contact: R&H USA Inv. Corp. Ltd. @233-0779.

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Tiger wins Buick in a rout to tie Palmer

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Tiger Woods joined the King, and left everyone else at the Buick Invitational feeling like paupers. In his most dominant start to a season, Woods built an 11-shot lead Sunday until his game and the fickle weather turned cold on the back nine. A birdie on the last hole gave him a 1-under 71 and an eight-shot victory, giving him 62 for his career to tie Arnold Palmer on the PGA Tour list.

"I'm sure that there are many, many more coming in the future," Palmer said. "There isn't any question about that."

Just like there was no question about the outcome.

Woods opened with a 40-foot birdie putt, threw in a 60-foot birdie just to keep a four-deep gallery from falling asleep, and only looked mortal when he made three straight bogeys toward the end of his round.

All that did was affect the final margin, not the name on the trophy.

Woods finished at 19-under 269 to win the Buick Invitational for the fourth consecutive year, tying a PGA Tour record for consecutive wins in a single tournament. Woods is the only player to own such a streak at two events, having also won four in a row at Bay Hill.

Ryuji Imada matched the best score of the final round with a 67 and was the runner-up.

Woods returns to Torrey Pines in June for the U.S. Open, and if this week was any indication, it could be another long week for his peers. The world's No. 1 player now has won six times as a pro at Torrey Pines, and his comment that the Grand Slam is "easily within reason" looked every bit of that.

"What he's going to do is screw the U.S. Open up for everyone else," Fred Couples said. "If he had shot 10 or 11 under, the USGA would have said, 'Well, maybe we have it in the right spot.' Now, they may have to regroup a little."

Then again, it might not matter.

Woods has won his last two PGA Tour events by eight shots, and this was the ninth time in his career he has won by at least eight.

"I wanted to go out there and make no bogeys and shoot something under par," Woods said. "I got half of it right."

The 71 ended Woods' streak of 14 consecutive rounds in the 60s, dating to the second round of the Deutsche Bank Championship. He has finished no worse than second since the British Open in July, when he tied for 12th at Carnoustie.

Woods planned to leave Sunday night for the Dubai Desert Classic, and he likely won't return to the PGA Tour until the end of February at the Accenture Match Play Championship. Next in line on the career list is Ben Hogan with 64 victories, and each win moves Woods closer to the record 82 won by Sam Snead.

"You'd like to think it's surprising, but it's not," Charles Howell III said. "It's Tiger."

Woods is 6-of-12 in his PGA Tour debuts, but he has never won with such ease. He went back to work after the holidays, and it was as if last year never ended.

The only surprise was the weather, a pleasant one at that.

The forecast was for heavy rain overnight and into Sunday, with the possibility of a Monday finish. But the clouds cleared as Woods was warming up, and he played the front nine under brilliant blue skies. Only on the back nine did clouds return and temperatures plunge. He closed out his victory under a mixture of rain and clouds, and smile that showed all was right in his world.

"He's just much better," said Couples, who posted his first top-10 finish since the 2006 Masters. "It's fun to see. I've been on tour for 28 years, and I've never seen this stuff."

Imada birdied his last two holes to finish alone in second at 11-under 277 and was thrilled.

"This is the Tiger Woods Invitational, isn't it?" he said. "I thought he was the host."

The Buick Invitational is the third PGA Tour event Woods has won six times. The others are the Bridgestone Invitational and the CA Championship, both World Golf Championship events.

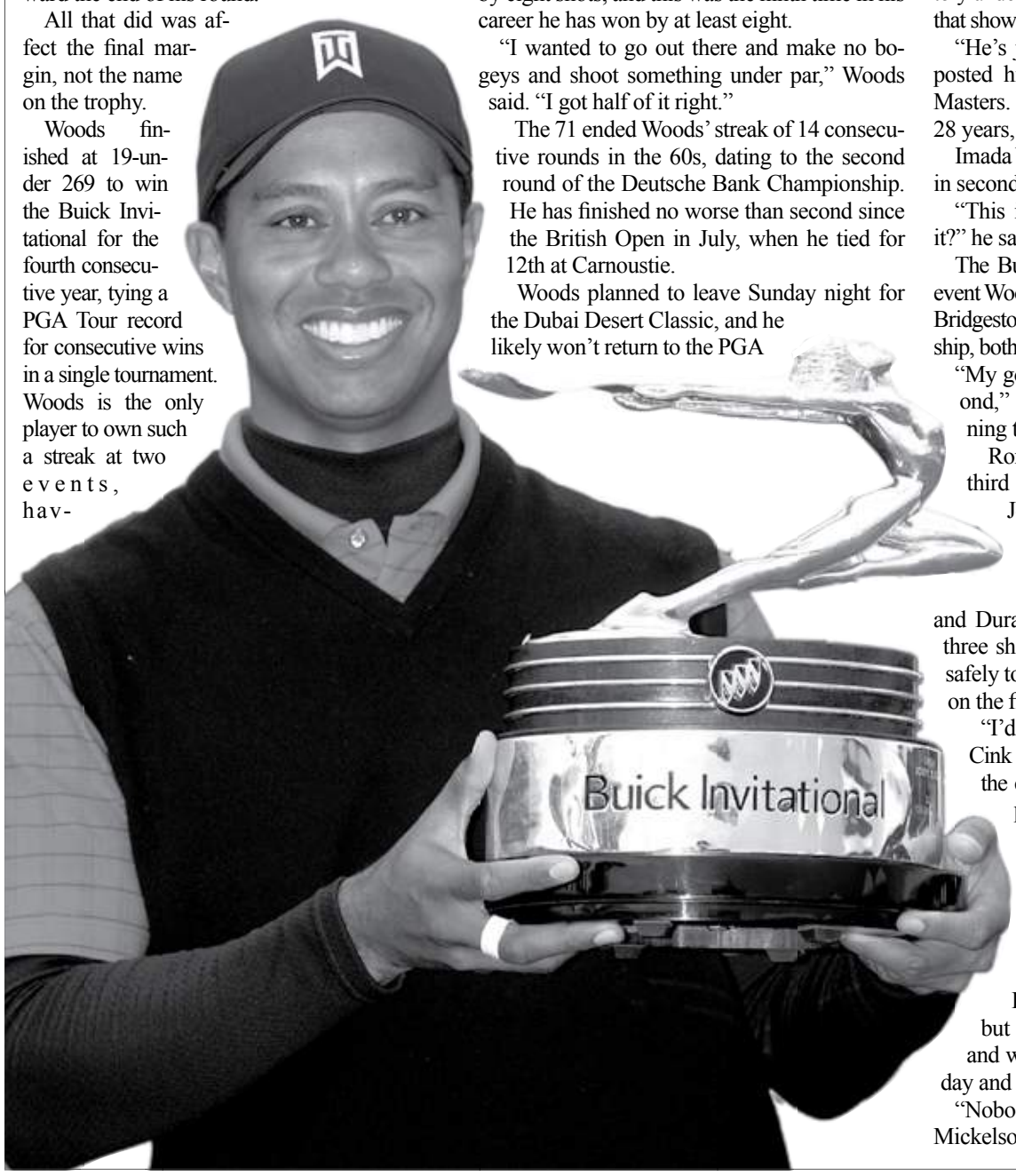
"My goal going into today was to finish second," Imada said. "That's almost like winning the golf tournament to me."

Rory Sabbatini also had a 67 to tie for third with Stewark Cink (73), who joined Joe Durant in the final group and were along for the ride. On the opening hole, with fans lining both sides of the fairway from tee-to-green, Cink and Durant found a fairway bunker and took three shots to reach the green. Woods played safely to the middle, and his 40-foot birdie fell on the final turn.

"I'd say this is the best I've seen him play," Cink said. "The last couple days, off the tee, the control he had was just really very impressive. The Tiger that we saw a year and two years ago, hitting it sort of all over the place, I think that's a thing of the past. He's got it geared down and he came out and played really well."

Justin Leonard closed with a 72 to finish alone in fifth, 12 shots behind. Phil Mickelson also made his 2008 debut this week, but was slowed by illness and was never a factor. He shot 71 on Sunday and tied for sixth with Durant (75).

"Nobody thought too much about winning," Mickelson said.



Nelson helps rally No. 4 Duke past Terps

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (AP)—Facing its biggest deficit of the season in a hostile environment, No. 4 Duke showed its resilience in denying Maryland another upset.

DeMarcus Nelson scored 19 of his 27 points in the second half, Gerald Henderson added 23, and the Blue Devils rallied to beat the Terrapins 93-84 Sunday night.

Duke (17-1, 5-0 ACC) had not trailed by more than six points in any game prior to falling behind 51-42 at halftime. But the Blue Devils fought back in front of a boisterous sellout crowd hopeful of seeing Maryland earn its sixth win in eight games against its hated rival.

James Gist scored 26 and Bambale Osby had 20 points and 15 rebounds, both career highs, for the Terrapins (12-8, 2-3).

Maryland was coming off an 82-80 win on the road against then-No. 1 North Carolina. That was eight days earlier, and unfortunately for the Terrapins, the momentum generated from that breakthrough victory could not be sustained.

Duke led by 2 before baskets by Henderson and Nelson ignited an 8-2 spurt that made it 83-75. A 3-pointer by Gist got Maryland to 84-81, but Nelson made a driving layup for a 5-point cushion with 61 seconds to go.

The Terrapins would get no closer than 4 points.

Duke launched its comeback at the outset of the second half by making three straight baskets, two by Nelson. A three-point play by Nelson got the Blue Devils to 57-55, and minutes later a 3-pointer by Kyle Singler put Duke up 64-63.

Greivis Vasquez answered with a layup and an off-balance baseline jumper, but Terps reserve David Neal missed a layup and the Blue Devils used a 3-pointer by Greg Paulus and two foul shots by Nelson to move back in front.

The Terrapins would not lead again.

Despite forcing 13 turnovers and getting 16 points from Henderson, Duke trailed at halftime for the first time this season.

The crowd was in a frenzy at the outset, and a quick start by the Terrapins only raised the volume. Maryland made its first four field goal tries, including three straight layups by Osby, and a 3-pointer by Vasquez made it 11-5.

The Terrapins opened 7-for-10 from the floor but had five turnovers in the opening seven minutes and fell behind for the first time when Henderson made two foul shots for an 18-16 advantage.

It was 29-25 before Landon Milbourne hit a 3-pointer to spark a 10-0 run that put Maryland back in front. Gist had two dunks during the 90-second spree.

A technical foul on the Duke bench helped the Terrapins close the half with a 9-2 flurry.

Vick associate gets probation

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—A man who sold a female pit bull to Michael Vick's dogfighting operation and attended some of the fights avoided prison time Friday because he cooperated with investigators and did not physically harm any of the dogs.

Oscar Allen was sentenced to three years probation and fined $500 for his limited involvement in the Bad Newz Kennels dogfighting ring that operated out of Vick's 15-acre spread in rural Surry County.

Vick, the suspended star quarterback for the Atlanta Falcons, was sentenced in December to 23 months in federal prison. Three co-defendants also have been sentenced to prison terms.

"Your case is in a clearly different class than the other defendants who've appeared before me," U.S. District Judge Henry Hudson told the 67-year-old Allen. "But for your cooperation the case would not have developed as smoothly and completely as it did."

Allen, from the Williamsburg area, pleaded guilty in October to conspiracy to travel in interstate commerce to aid in illegal gambling and to sponsor a dog in animal fighting—the same charge to which Vick and the other three men pleaded guilty.

Allen faced a maximum of five years in prison and a $250,000 fine, but federal prosecutors recommended that he spend no time in prison because he cooperated with investigators, had no prior criminal record and was a minor player in Vick's dogfighting enterprise.

"He came in and cooperated without any immunity or protection, knowing he would be charged," said prosecutor Michael Gill. He said information supplied by Allen was "a significant factor" in obtaining guilty pleas from Vick and the others.

Prosecutors said that while Allen helped conduct test fights to determine which dogs were good fighters, he was not involved in killing the six to eight that performed poorly.

"I see no evidence of any cruel acts toward animals in this case," Hudson said.

The judge told Allen that the light punishment did not mean he condoned Allen's behavior. "You clearly aided and abetted this conspiracy," he said.

Asked if he had anything to say, Allen told Hudson: "I would just like to apologize to the court for my actions and say I am very sorry."

Allen sold to Vick's operation a pit bull named Jane, one of dozens of dogs seized by authorities during a raid in April. Hudson appointed Rebecca J. Huss, professor at the Valparaiso University School of Law, guardian of the dogs.

Based on her recommendations, 47 dogs have been sent to eight animal rescue organizations throughout the country. Two previously were euthanized—one for medical reasons, another because of behavioral issues.

Huss said in a telephone interview Friday that she hopes many of the 47 pit bulls eventually can be adopted by families. Some will require lifetime care by the rescue organizations.

"The individual organizations will be following their own guidelines," Huss said. "The dogs will have to show they are not a danger to public safety. We have to make sure they have the tools they need to be successful in society."

She said she has interacted with all the dogs.

"I don't want to minimize the damage that's been done because a lot of them have a long way to go," Huss said. "But what's amazing is how resilient they are. Most of them want to be with people, but some are still cautious."

She said Jane was not one of the two euthanized.

"She's a rambunctious dog," Huss said. "She entertains herself and, physically, she's in good shape. She's a dog that makes a good impression on you."

Allen was indicted separately from Vick and three co-defendants. Purnell Peace of Virginia Beach was sentenced to 18 months, Quanis Phillips of Atlanta to 21 months and Tony Taylor of Hampton, Va., to 2 months.

Those four men also face state animal cruelty charges in Surry County. Vick's trial is set for April 2.

Vick, who admitted bankrolling the dogfighting operation and helping execute dogs, entered a minimum-security prison in Leavenworth, Kan., this month.

Turkoglu's last-second 3 lifts Magic over Celtics

ORLANDO, Florida (AP)—Hedo Turkoglu nailed an off-balance 3-pointer with time expiring to lift the Orlando Magic over the Kevin Garnett-less Boston Celtics 96-93 in the NBA on Sunday.

It was Orlando's second home win over league-leading Boston this season, and the Celtics' first game without Garnett, who has an abdominal strain.

Dwight Howard had 18 points and 16 rebounds for Orlando, and Rashard Lewis scored 15 points.

Paul Pierce led Boston with 24 points and nine rebounds.

Suns 88, Bulls 77

At Chicago, Amare Stoudemire scored 24 points and Phoenix pulled away early in the fourth quarter to beat Chicago.

Leandro Barbosa scored 13 and started a 12-0 run in the fourth, sending the Suns to their sixth win in seven games.

Kirk Hinrich did all he could to keep the Bulls in the game, finishing with 31 points.

Cavaliers 98, Lakers 95

At Los Angeles, LeBron James and Kobe Bryant went back and forth throughout an intense fourth quarter with James and Cleveland prevailing.

James scored 14 of his 41 points in the final period, and Bryant scored nine of his 33 points in the fourth quarter, and also had 12 rebounds and six assists. But Los Angeles lost its third straight game, matching its longest losing streak of the season.

Zydrunas Ilgauskas had 16 points and 11 rebounds before fouling out with 6:14 to play for the Cavaliers, who have beaten the Lakers in their last five meetings.

AP

Orlando Magic forward Hedo Turkoglu, center, of Turkey, puts up a shot over Boston Celtics forward James Posey (41) and Tony Allen, left, during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Orlando, Fla., Sunday, Jan. 27, 2008.

Mavericks 90, Nuggets 85

At Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki scored 16 of his 32 points in the fourth quarter, most coming over the final minutes to help Dallas hold off Denver.

Nowitzki scored 14 of Dallas' last 16 points, and 4-for-4 on free throws in the final minute.

Allen Iverson had 23 points and nine assists for Denver.

Trail Blazers 94, Hawks 93

At Portland, Oregon, Brandon Roy scored 24 points, including the go-ahead free throw with 2.3 seconds left, and Portland erased a 19-point deficit to beat Atlanta.

Joe Johnson led the Hawks with 19 points. Marvin Williams and Josh Smith each had 17.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 16 points and eight rebounds for the Trail Blazers.

Jazz 97, Rockets 89

At Houston, Deron Williams had 17 points and 12 assists, Kyle Korver added 17 points, including two late 3-pointers, and Utah took advantage of Yao Ming's absence to beat Houston.

Yao, voted the starting center for the Western Conference in next month's All-Star game, sat out with an upper respiratory infection, the first game he's missed this season.

Timberwolves 98, Nets 95

At Minneapolis, Al Jefferson had a career-high 40 points and 19 rebounds, hit the go-ahead free throws with 11.4 seconds to go, and helped Minnesota extend New Jersey's losing streak to nine.

Richard Jefferson scored 35 points and Vince Carter added 25. But Carter attempted an ill-advised fallaway jumper with the Nets clinging to a 95-94 lead in the final 25 seconds. New Jersey's skid is its longest since November 2004.

Bucks 105, Wizards 102, OT

At Milwaukee, Mo Williams scored 25 points, including two key 3-pointers, and Charlie Bell added 22 as shorthanded Milwaukee beat Washington in overtime.

Andrew Bogut added 18 points and 15 rebounds and the Bucks overcame a career-high 40 points from the Wizards' Caron Butler.

Washington overcame an 11-point deficit in the final 92 seconds of regulation to force overtime.

Kings 103, SuperSonics 101

At Seattle, Kevin Martin scored Sacramento's final five points, including a frantic race the length of the court for a 20-footer as the clock expired, and the Kings extended Seattle's franchise-record losing streak to 14.

Martin finished with 26 points, one of seven Kings in double figures.

Kevin Durant led Seattle with 19 points, but missed 15 of his 20 shots. Seattle has yet to win in 2008.

Warriors 106, Knicks 104

At Oakland, California, Stephen Jackson scored 16 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter and Andris Biedrins grabbed a NBA season-high 26 rebounds to help Golden State rally from another double-digit deficit to beat New York.

Golden State trailed by 10 points in the third quarter before finding its long-range shooting touch late to win. The Warriors have trailed by double digits in 11 of their 26 wins this season.

Nate Robinson led New York with 22 points.

Coughlin stresses focus to giddy Giants

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—The packed blue canvas travel bags were in front of each locker and there seemed to be a sense of relief among the New York Giants after holding their final practice in New Jersey for the Super Bowl.

"It's kind of like the last day of school," punter Jeff Feagles said Saturday, looking around the locker room where smiling players joked with one another and conducted another round of interviews.

"We're packing our bags and guys are a little giddy," added the 20-year veteran, who will be playing in his first Super Bowl a week from Sunday when the Giants face the New England Patriots in Glendale, Ariz.

For the first time since returning to work Thursday, there didn't seem to be any tension as players headed home for 36 hours of down time with their families and friends.

They will be back at Giants Stadium on Monday for meetings and a flight to Arizona to begin the final week of preparation.

Defensive tackle Barry Cofield felt a little weird leaving the bubble at Giants Stadium for the last time this season. But it was also a good feeling, knowing what lies ahead.

"Everything is new to me, and probably to almost every guy on this team," Cofield said. "I think that's a good thing. There is a lot of excitement and a lot of anticipation. I think people are eager to go out there and play."

The one constant was Tom Coughlin, Cofield said. The coach has been intense, worried that his team is looking too far ahead.

Coughlin seemed to pick up his intensity in practice Saturday, barking at players to keep them focused and reminding them to take care of things like tickets requests and family needs now.

"I think he is fearful," Cofield said. "That's how most coaches are. I don't know what the word I want to use is .... Paranoid! Most coaches are paranoid. They always feel like they have to be prepared for everything, and coach Coughlin is like that, more so than most coaches. He sees the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow and he knows if we do the right things we have a chance of getting there."

Despite having starting fullback Madison Hedgecock and backup defensive tackle Manny Wright miss their second straight practice because of some type of 24-hour bug, the Giants (13-6) seemingly will be healthy for their rematch with the Patriots (18-0).

Starting left guard Rich Seubert is making progress recovering from his sprained right knee, and it's expected that he will practice in Arizona for the game. And backup cornerback Kevin Dockery (hip) worked a little for the first time in weeks, and he seemingly will ready for the championship game.

And while safety Michael Johnson, who also was ill on Friday, returned to practice, Michael Strahan had a cold and took it easy.

Halfback Brandon Jacobs said Coughlin has made sure the players are focused on the big prize.

All they have to do is beat the Patriots, which is something no one has done this season. The Giants came close in the regular-season finale, losing 38-35 after opening a 28-16 lead in the third quarter.

"He knows we have a great opportunity to win this football game, and he wants to do everything in his power to prepare us the right way and make sure we don't slip up, that we leave everything out on the field," Jacobs said.

Coughlin has not been alone in spreading the message. The Giants have a player leadership council, and they have constantly reminded each other that no one remembers who lost the Super Bowl.

"There are going to be a lot of distractions and we are aware of that," Feagles said. "We have to keep them to a minimum and that's where the leaders on this team come in. We're taking the young guys by the hand and letting them know we may never get back to this. It's great we got here. But we want to win."

Brady not concerned with injured ankle

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Relax, Patriots fans. A smiling Tom Brady says not to worry about his much publicized and photographed ankle. It won't keep him out of Sunday's Super Bowl.

New England's star quarterback walked up the three short steps to the podium with ease Sunday night, showing no signs of the right ankle injury that had become such a hot topic since he was spotted wearing a protective boot last Monday.

"It's feeling good. I'll be ready to go," Brady said as the AFC champions met the media for the first time shortly after arriving in Phoenix.

It was also the first time Brady acknowledged he was injured in the AFC championship game.

"It was in the San Diego game, I think in the third quarter," Brady said, referring to the Patriots' 21-12 victory last Sunday.

Brady hasn't practiced since, but said he moved a little bit during the week and "shuffled around."

"I'm not concerned about how it's going to affect my play," he said. "This won't keep me out."

The face of New England's franchise reportedly has a minor high ankle sprain. He wore a protective boot on his right foot last Monday in New York while visiting supermodel girlfriend Gisele Bundchen, causing a major stir and concern among Patriots fans.

"I was just trying to get into the house as fast as I could," Brady said. "I was trying to hobble along. It kind of caught me off guard."

New England will try to become the first team in NFL history to finish 19-0 when it plays the New York Giants in the Super Bowl next Sunday.

After returning to Foxborough on Wednesday, Brady wasn't spotted by the media the next two days while reporters were allowed into the locker room and at practice.

"I was glad to be back in New England and in the insulated atmosphere of our locker room," he said.

It sure wasn't safe on the streets of New York for Brady.

"Yeah, it's been an interesting week," he said. "I'm much lighter on my toes than I thought."

Brady also issued a playful warning: "Don't any of you chase me around. I won't be nearly as nice as I was last week."

That was when he was followed by paparazzi as he exited a taxi in New York, with a handful of flowers for his girlfriend. Later that day and on Tuesday, he wasn't wearing the boot when photographed.

"It's just part of the world we're living in," he said. "Those places I went for refuge, I guess I can't go anymore. If we were 0-16, nobody would (care)."

Bud Cup, BANMI meetings this week

The ongoing 2007 BANMI-Budweiser Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball League and the Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands will be conducting important meetings this week.

Bud Cup coordinator Abner Venus said the premier basketball competition in the islands will hold its meeting this Thursday, Jan. 31, 6:30pm at the Gilbert C. Ada conference room.

He said it is important that all coaches attend the meeting because its agenda will revolve around the selection of the MVP for this year's Budweiser Cup.

Meanwhile, BANMI will hold its monthly board meeting on Saturday, Feb. 2, 9am at the Ada Gym conference room. All BANMI board members are urged to attend this meeting.

For more information, contact BANMI president and zone development officer Elias Rangamar at 664-2500. ***(BANMI)***

DJOKOVIC

From Page 28

"Coming on against a player with nothing to lose—he was going for the shots and he was very dangerous, especially in the first set—I was pretty nervous," he said.

Tsonga, so aggressive earlier in the tournament, seemed content to rally from the baseline, especially after getting passed several times. The forehands that whipped past Nadal and kissed the lines were wayward. And he netted some of the soft touch volleys that gave him easy points against the Spaniard.

"I was trying to stay with him because I knew sooner or later, with my style of game, I could get in control of the match," Djokovic said.

With Federer only two majors shy of Pete Sampras' record 14 Grand Slam titles, Djokovic said he needed to make the most of any opportunity.

"This match was especially important because I was the favorite and I knew everybody was expecting me to win, so anything but the win was a loss," Djokovic said. "I wanted really to win because I felt my chance. I wanted to win my first Grand Slam. Now things are different."

Djokovic will remain at No. 3 in the rankings behind Federer and Nadal. Tsonga, ranked 38th coming into the tournament, will move up to No. 18 after advancing past the fourth round for the first time. He thinks he has the game to crack the top 10.

"Not everybody can beat players who I beat," he said. "It's very difficult, and I did it. So, of course, I'm confident now."

Tsonga was trying to give France its first men's Grand Slam champion since Yannick Noah won at Roland Garros in 1983. Djokovic was certain of the celebrations in his country.

"I can imagine what is happening on the streets of Belgrade and Serbia," he said. "This is just something amazing for us."

Djokovic and his female compatriots, Ana Ivanovic and Jelena Jankovic, reached the semifinals at Melbourne Park, repeating their run at the last French Open. Ivanovic lost Saturday's women's final in straight sets to Sharapova.

"All the players, the girls, Jankovic, Ivanovic, everybody who comes from Serbia," he said. "It's such a small country with not a big tennis tradition."

Sharapova won her third Grand Slam title without dropping a set in a run that included wins over former No. 1 Lindsay Davenport and three of the top four players.

She ended No. 1 Justine Henin's 32-match winning streak in the quarterfinals, then beat Jankovic in the semis and Ivanovic 7-5, 6-3 for the championship. The victory erased bitter memories of a 6-1, 6-2 loss in the 2007 Australian final.

Sharapova will remain at No. 5, with Henin at No. 1 and Ivanovic overtaking Svetlana Kuznetsova at No. 2.

In doubles, Jonathan Erlich and Andy Ram became the first Israeli pair to win a Grand Slam title, beating France's Michael Llodra and Arnaud Clement 7-5 7-6 (4).

Ukraine sisters Alona and Kateryna combined for a 2-6, 6-1, 6-4 win over Victoria Azarenka of Belarus and Shahar Peer of Israel in the women's doubles final.

China's Sun Tiantian combined with Serbia's Nenad Zimonjic to beat Indian pair Sania Mirza and Mahesh Bhupathi 7-6 (4), 6-4 for the mixed doubles title.

The tournament set a record for total attendance for an Australian Open (605,735) and a one-day mark for any Grand Slam (62,885 on Day 4). It also set a record for the latest finish, with Australia's Lleyton Hewitt finishing off 2006 runner-up Marcos Baghdatis at 4:33 a.m. on the first Sunday after starting at 11:47 p.m. Saturday.

Djokovic plans to spend a couple of weeks savoring the title, then get back to work.

"It's not possible that only one tournament is changing the history," he said. "I played amazing tennis here, so I think I absolutely deserved to win, even against (Federer) in the semifinals."

"Sure, he's going to come back in a big style," he added. "He's still planning to be the best player in the world. We all know how good he is. We're going to see a lot of him, of course, this year."

TORRES

From Page 28

Raymond Zapanta.

Zapanta paced the men's division in the first day of the two-day tournament, rolling an 817 total and 204.25 average built around a series of 186, 191, the aforementioned 255, and 185.

Former prince campaigner Jeremy Williams made a smashing debut in the King of the Lanes after finishing second to Zapanta with his 808 total and 202 average. Ray Cruz is in third place with his 781 and 195.25 line.

In the Queen of the Lanes, 2007 Bowling Ranking System winner Emi Williams holds fort with a 701 total and 175.25 average. She was followed by Yho Villavicencio (697 and 174.25) and 2007 Queen of the Lanes Diane Camacho (648 and 162).

Results of Day 2 of the January roll-off held Monday evening was still unavailable as of press time.

The Prince/Princess of the Lanes as well as the King and Queen of the Lanes Tournament is organized by the Saipan Bowling Association.

For more information about the King, Queen, Prince/Princess of the Lanes Bowling tournaments, see or contact SBA official Gigi Zapanta at 288-5627or e-mail zapanta@pticom.com.

MIYACHI

From Page 28

Lewie Tenorio, who is training for the 7th XTERRA Saipan Championship and 19th Tagaman Triathlon, (1:45.06); Nate Hawley (1:56.59); Yoshi Suzuki (1:58.23); Commonwealth Health Center physician Florian Braig (2:03.15); and the indefatigable Fred Camacho (2:03.41).

Shimizu, meanwhile, ruled the women's division and was the seventh overall finisher with a time of 1:43.49. She had a time of 1:41.41 in the Half Marathon two Saturdays ago, finishing in third place.

Mieko Carey failed to catch up with Shimizu, settling for runner-up honors in 1:47.26, while Emilie Louise Fidler finished third (1:52.21).

The women's Full Marathon champion Mamiko Oshima had her first taste of off-road racing and wound up in fourth place with a time of 2:05.26, while perennial Top 3 finisher Monica Yamaguchi came in fifth (2:08.25).

Nicole LeBlanc (2:08.59); Dawn Hammermeister (2:11.56); Elizabeth Church (2:13.03); Christine Taitano (2:18.43); and Kimiko Hasegawa (2:21.28) completed the Top 10 female finishers

Other notable runners that participated were Tyce Mister, Joshua Berger, Paul Khang, Michael Johnson, Eigo Komatsu, Chan Whan Jang, Juan Babauta, Izumi Yamaguchi, Ericak Frinck, Andrea Ozawa, Xiang Choi, Barbara Tayama, Clarie Kosack, and Marian Pierce.

A total of 33 runners responded in taking the challenge of the inaugural Marianas Coffee Trail Run where participants also enjoyed an amazing view of the Saipan Lagoon, challenging terrain, and passed through some of the best trails in the CNMI.

Prizes were given to the Top 3 male and female runners in the inaugural race, which was sponsored by Marianas Coffee Co.

The company was founded by husband-and-wife Chuck and Ann Jordan in 2003. The company now supplies coffee beans to all of the major island hotels except one. It also distributes beans to some of Saipan's best coffee shops. Marianas Coffee also sells its product at DFS Galleria and ABC retail stores.

The Marianas Coffee Co. and Marianas Visitors Authority would like to thank Reps. Ray Tebuteb and Heinz Hofschneider for trimming the course in Mt. Tapochao, Mr. Mariano Camacho and family for allowing runners to pass by their property, the Inautuas Cultural Dance Group for the opening ceremony, and all volunteers that helped in the aid stations.

The race was also held in cooperation with the Historical Preservation Office, Pacific Development, Inc., Northern Marianas Athletics, Saipan Walking Association Inc., Department of Public Safety-Traffic, Emergency Management Services, DPS-Fire, and CHC-Volunteers.

AGUON

From Page 28

singled out referee Noel Delos Santos as being biased because most of his calls are against his team.

Sablan, in an interview last week, made the comment in reaction to a story on BANMI referees association vice president Arnold Mesa's remarks that players should respect the calls being made by local referees.

Sablan said that he believes players and fans do respect the calls made by the referees since they can do nothing if the official finally blew the whistle or tend to miss a violation.

Aguon said game officials are not always right but they are also not always wrong either. "The referees are trained to call what they see and that's it. There are two of them and must work as a team."

The long-time CNMI Men's National Team coach added he encourages players if they have proof of referees who regularly officiate matches is biased or otherwise to show it to him.

"If there is proof, I encourage anyone to submit [the] proof so the matter can be addressed properly. A referee's certification is only good if the governing body recognizes it. It's not a lifetime license."

Aguon defended the referees, saying teams should also analyze how they played in a game and ask themselves how did they lose, especially in a close match. "We must first count how many shots, layups, free throws, and unforced turnovers we committed and ask ourselves why did we lose the game."

Aguon said BANMI has been following the FIBA Oceania certification process in selecting referees that will join the current pool of game officials, which he and BANMI president Elias Rangamar are the certified trainers.

"Anyone who is interested must first go through a 30-hour clinic which covers the rules, court coverage and other items."

Aguon added that anyone could be a referee. "But it's easier with people that have basketball background. Either you were a player or a coach or have been involved in the game."

Aside from Aguon and Mesa other BANMI referees association officials are Abner Venus, secretary; and Mike White, treasurer.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	34	8	.810	–
Toronto	24	19	.558	10 1/2
New Jersey	18	26	.409	17
Philadelphia	17	28	.378	18 1/2
New York	14	29	.326	20 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	28	18	.609	–
Washington	23	19	.548	3
Atlanta	18	22	.450	7
Charlotte	17	27	.386	10
Miami	9	33	.214	17

Central Division

Detroit	31	13	.705	–
Cleveland	24	19	.558	6 1/2
Indiana	19	26	.422	12 1/2
Milwaukee	18	27	.400	13 1/2
Chicago	17	26	.395	13 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

New Orleans	31	12	.721	–
Dallas	30	13	.698	1
San Antonio	28	14	.667	2 1/2
Houston	24	20	.545	7 1/2
Memphis	13	31	.295	18 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	26	17	.605	–
Portland	26	18	.591	1/2
Utah	26	18	.591	1/2
Seattle	9	35	.205	17 1/2
Minnesota	8	35	.186	18

Pacific Division

Phoenix	32	13	.711	–
L.A. Lakers	27	15	.643	3 1/2
Golden State	27	18	.600	5
Sacramento	19	24	.442	12
L.A. Clippers	13	27	.325	16 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Phoenix 88, Chicago 77
Orlando 96, Boston 93
Cleveland 98, L.A. Lakers 95
Portland 94, Atlanta 93
Milwaukee 105, Washington 102, OT
Dallas 90, Denver 85
Minnesota 98, New Jersey 95
Utah 97, Houston 89
Sacramento 103, Seattle 101
Golden State 106, New York 104

BUICK INVITATIONAL SCORES

Final Round

Tiger Woods, $936,000	67-65-66-71	269
Ryuji Imada, $561,600	69-72-69-67	277
Rory Sabbatini, $301,600	67-75-70-67	279
Stewart Cink, $301,600	68-69-69-73	279
Justin Leonard, $208,000	76-68-65-72	281
Phil Mickelson, $180,700	70-73-68-71	282
Joe Durant, $180,700	70-70-67-75	282
John Senden, $150,800	70-69-72-72	283
Fred Couples, $150,800	71-69-71-72	283
Stuart Appleby, $150,800	67-72-71-73	283
Troy Matteson, $124,800	65-75-73-71	284
Nathan Green, $124,800	68-72-72-72	284
Charles Howell III, $91,867	68-72-71-74	285
Kevin Sutherland, $91,867	73-68-70-74	285
Kenneth Ferrie, $91,867	73-67-71-74	285
Steve Elkington, $91,867	71-71-69-74	285
Camilo Villegas, $91,867	69-72-70-74	285
Aaron Baddeley, $91,867	71-67-71-76	285
Frank Lickliter II, $65,260	72-70-73-71	286
Carl Pettersson, $65,260	70-72-70-74	286
Boo Weekley, $65,260	72-66-71-77	286
Doug LaBelle II, $65,260	68-72-69-77	286
Matt Kuchar, $44,980	71-72-71-73	287
Vijay Singh, $44,980	73-68-74-72	287
Steve Marino, $44,980	74-70-71-72	287
Matt Jones, $44,980	72-70-70-75	287
John Mallinger, $44,980	74-66-72-75	287
Carlos Franco, $44,980	71-69-71-76	287
Dean Wilson, $33,063	69-71-73-75	288
Bill Haas, $33,063	72-68-73-75	288
Parker McLachlin, $33,063	69-73-73-73	288
Hunter Mahan, $33,063	71-69-73-75	288
Kevin Streelman, $33,063	67-69-75-77	288
Jeff Quinney, $33,063	69-71-70-78	288
Robert Allenby, $27,430	70-70-72-77	289
Roland Thatcher, $27,430	73-71-73-72	289
Jim Furyk, $22,360	73-68-73-76	290
Shigeki Maruyama, $22,360	71-71-73-75	290
Rod Pampling, $22,360	70-72-74-74	290
Dustin Johnson, $22,360	72-70-75-73	290
Kevin Stadler, $22,360	68-74-76-72	290
Brett Wetterich, $22,360	72-72-74-72	290
Marc Turnesa, $22,360	73-70-76-71	290
Briny Baird, $17,160	71-71-71-78	291
Jon Mills, $17,160	73-70-73-75	291
J.B. Holmes, $17,160	71-73-72-75	291
Jin Park, $14,664	71-73-72-76	292
Bubba Watson, $14,664	73-71-75-73	292
Justin Bolli, $12,506	74-69-70-80	293
Jeff Maggert, $12,506	71-72-72-78	293
Chris Stroud, $12,506	73-70-73-77	293
Cliff Kresge, $12,506	76-67-74-76	293
Sean O'Hair, $12,506	76-68-74-75	293
Jason Day, $12,506	72-72-75-74	293
Tom Pernice, Jr., $12,506	71-73-75-74	293
George McNeill, $12,506	72-72-75-74	293
Tim Herron, $11,752	72-72-73-77	294
Brad Adamonis, $11,596	66-72-80-77	295
Craig Barlow, $11,596	71-73-75-76	295
Jason Gore, $11,388	73-71-73-79	296
Jamie Lovemark	73-71-73-79	296
Travis Perkins, $11,388	76-68-77-75	296
Tag Ridings, $11,232	73-71-70-83	297
Cody Freeman, $11,128	70-74-77-80	301
John Rollins, $11,024	71-71-78-82	302
Mark O'Meara, $10,920	72-72-75-84	303

ATP RANKINGS

1. Roger Federer, Switzerland, 6,630 points
2. Rafael Nadal, Spain, 5,980
3. Novak Djokovic, Serbia, 5,165
4. Nikolay Davydenko, Russia, 2,725
5. David Ferrer, Spain, 2,715
6. Andy Roddick, United States, 2,155
7. Richard Gasquet, France, 1,895
8. Mikhail Youzhny, Russia, 1,845
9. James Blake, United States, 1,710
10. David Nalbandian, Argentina, 1,700
11. Tomas Berdych, Czech Republic, 1,685
12. Andy Murray, Britain, 1,685
13. Marcos Baghdatis, Cyprus, 1,640
14. Guillermo Canas, Argentina, 1,573
15. Juan Carlos Ferrero, Spain, 1,515
16. Carlos Moya, Spain, 1,505
17. Tommy Robredo, Spain, 1,490
18. Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, France, 1,489
19. Paul-Henri Mathieu, France, 1,465
20. Lleyton Hewitt, Australia, 1,460

Champions Race

1. Novak Djokovic, Serbia, 200
2. Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, France, 155
3. Rafael Nadal, Spain, 114
4. Roger Federer, Switzerland, 90
5. Mikhail Youzhny, Russia, 85
6. Philipp Kohlschreiber, Germany, 77
7. Jarkko Nieminen, Finland, 74
8. David Ferrer, Spain, 58
9. Juan Carlos Ferrero, Spain, 54

(tie) Dmitry Tursunov, Russia, 54

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

HANMI Cup Standings

ARC	5	0
APHI	4	1
Hafadai	2	2
PIC	2	2
Hyatt	1	2
World Resort	1	4
Aquarius	0	4

PIC outlasts last year's finalist Hyatt

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipan tribune.com
REPORTER

Pacific Islands Club pushed the right buttons Sunday night to outlast last year's finalist Hyatt Regency Saipan, 84-78, as action continued in the 2nd Annual HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Hyatt, bridging the third and fourth periods, slowly chipped away PIC's 25-point third-quarter lead to threaten at 80-76 with 2:58 left in the final canto.

PIC was enjoying a 65-41 advantage with barely four minutes left in the third quarter when Hyatt dropped a closing 16-3 bomb to trim the lead to 11 points, 68-57, heading into the final canto.

A Steven Tenorio 3-pointer and an Edmark Mendoza jumper, coupled by consecutive PIC turnovers, in the opening minutes of the fourth period brought Hyatt closer into the game at 62-68.

PIC coach Robert Lloren saw enough, calling a timeout to settle down his wards and stop Hyatt's sudden resurgence. When play resumed, PIC quickly responded with an 8-4 exchange to bring back the lead to double digits.

But Hyatt would not go down that easily as they last threatened at 76-80 with 2:58 left in the game clock.

That was the best that Hyatt could do as PIC showed nerves of steel in the final two minutes and wisely used up the clock to escape with their second win in four games.

More importantly, PIC's victory erased the stigma of its 73-86 loss to Asia Pacific Hotel Inc. (Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Saipan Grand Hotel, and Century Hotel) last week.

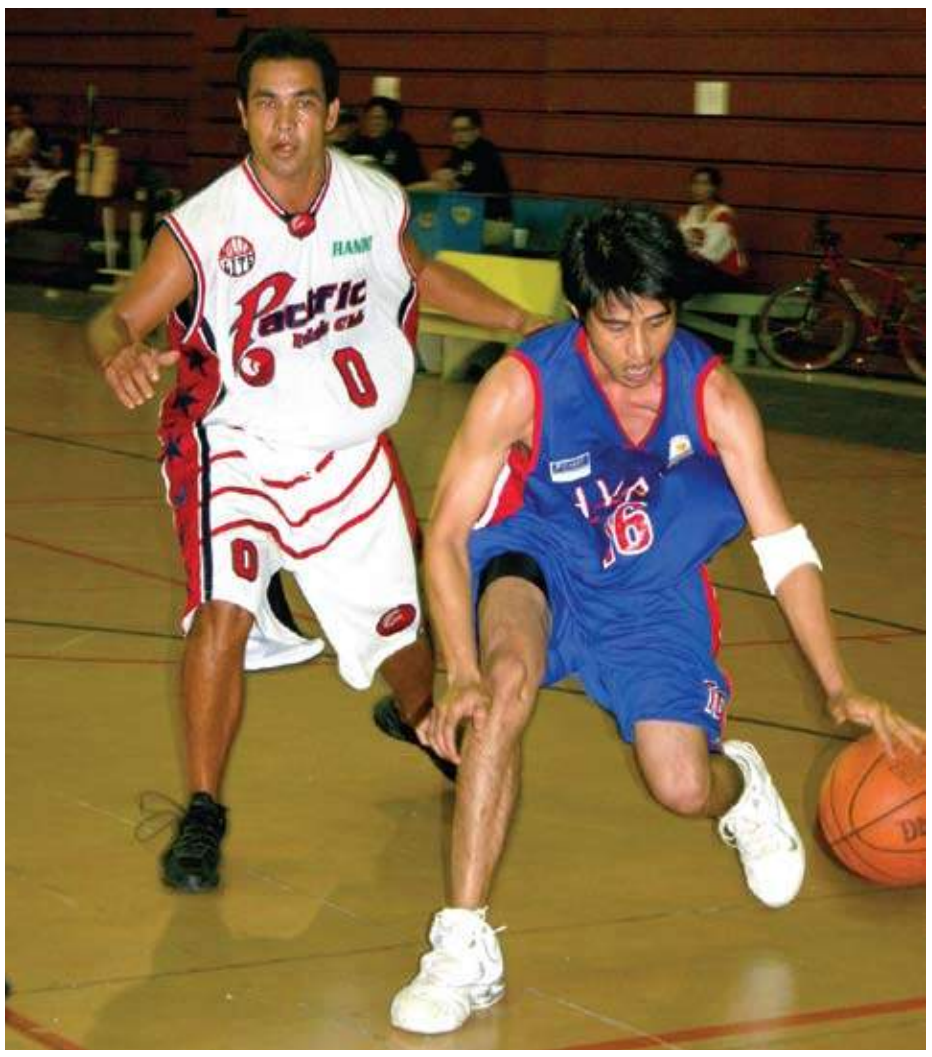
PIC also tied Hafadai Beach Hotel in the standings, as both teams are just a stone's throw away from leaders Aqua Resort Club and APHI.

Big men Richard Pambid and Derrick Tudela combined for 34 points and 21 rebounds to pace the PIC offense as they frolicked their way inside the paint. PIC outrebounded Hyatt, 46-28.

James Abuy, held scoreless in the second period, added 15 markers. Butch Kaipat scattered 10 points, had four rebounds, issued six assists, and had four steals in an all-around effort also for PIC.

Nick Swain and Marino Pungilug combined for 20 points, nine rebounds, seven assists, and five steals off the bench.

Edmark Mendoza, led Hyatt with 18 points, nine rebounds, three assists, and three steals, while Arman Magno backed him up with 16 markers and six rebounds. Krisgel Arreza and Steven Tenorio added 13 and 11 each.



JON PEREZ

Hyatt Regency Saipan's Edmark Mendoza, right, tries to keep possession of the ball while being guarded by Derrick Tudela of Pacific Islands Club in Sunday's game in the 2nd Annual HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ARC 99, World Resort 92

Free throws by guard Rick Alegre helped lift defending champion Aqua Resort to a 99-92 win over Saipan World Resort.

Alegre sank 12 of his 14 attempts in the second half including going 10-for-12 in the fourth quarter to secure Aqua Resort's fifth straight win in as many games.

Alegre had a breakout game finishing with a team-high 26 points, 12 rebounds, eight assists, and three steals.

Darwin Barbo had 24 points, seven rebounds, and two assists, while Ziddy Johannes added 17 markers, seven rebounds, three assists, and two steals. Amor Casabuena chipped in 13 more for Aqua Resort's winning cause.

Dennis Vinas scored 26 points, grabbed seven rebounds, issued seven assists, and had three steals to continue to be World Resort's lone ray of hope.

Rogel Caruana and Jam Navarro tallied 19 and 15 each, while Jerryfel Mangahis and Marvin Valle netted 14 and 10 markers.

APHI 106, Aquarius 95

Elmer Esdrelon had his first career double-double in the HANMI Cup in helping APHI to a 106-95 win over still winless Aquarius.

Esdrelon scored 15 points and issued a season-high 12 assists as APHI notched its fourth win in five games to remain in striking distance of defending champion and league-leading Aqua Resort's 5-0 mark.

Ryan Sanciangco led Fiesta-Grand-Century's scoring with a game-high 36 points to go along with his four rebounds, six assists, and two steals. Tom Alegre and Ryan Manglona netted 13 and 12 markers.

Jason Bahillo led Aquarius, which lost its fourth straight game after joining late last year, with 27 points and 12 rebounds, while George Barbo and Edwin Guzman combined for 31 markers.

Alvin Alvarez, Rick Brien, and Art Trajano combined for 30 points and 17 rebounds.

First Game

Aqua Resort Club 99 – Alegre 26, Barbo 24, Johannes 17, Casabuena 13, Achas 8, Gapor 8, Torres 3.

Saipan World Resort 92 – Vinas 22, Caruana 19, Navarro 15, Mangahis 14,Valle 10, Mendoza 5, Ramos 4, Paras 3.

Scoring by quarters: 28-19, 49-47, 77-64, 99-92.

Second Game

APHI 106 – Sanciangco 36, Opone 18, Esdrelon 15, Alegre 13, Manglona 12, Dela Torre 8, Jinang 3, Carino 1.

Aquarius Beach Tower 95 – Bahillo 27, Barbo 18, Guzman 13, Alvarez 10, Brien 10, Trajano 10, Rapanut 4, Cordero 2, Achas 1.

Scoring by quarters: 21-16, 42-35, 79-65, 106-95.

Third Game

Pacific Islands Club 84 – Pambid 17, Tudela 17, Abuy 15, Kaipat 10, Pungilug 10, Swain 10, Baterina 2, Lee 2, Valdez 1.

Hyatt Regency Saipan 78 – Mendoza 18, Magno 16, Arreza 13, Tenorio 11, Umali 8, Aquino 6, Dillay 6.

Scoring by quarters: 20-26, 48-36, 68-57, 84-78.

Arirang draws Onwel in men's football league

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipan tribune.com
REPORTER

Sunday's game between opening day winners FC Arirang and Onwel ended in a 2-2 draw in the second week of action in the Men's Winter Football League at the Oleai Field inside Susupe Sports Complex.

Seong Bong Ko ang Yoon Won Choi scored the goals for Arirang, while Seojing Yok and Somboon Plangsri made sure their opponents would not get the win when they made the goals for Onwel.

Both powerhouse teams also earned warnings for rough play with Yong Choi earning a yellow card for Arirang, while Onwel's Khanka Narongchai received a caution from the referee.

Inter and Independents, who both lost their opening games last week, scored contrasting wins against their opponents.

Inter, which suffered a 3-6 lashing from Arirang on Jan. 19, cruised to a 4-0 blanking of Multinational FC.

Arkie Reusora opened up the scoring for Inter with Peter Loken adding another heading into the halftime break.

The Inter scoring machine did not end there as Greg Sasamoto and Chris Guerrero booted a goal each in the second half to secure the win.

Multinational players Joe Miller, Semesi Paongo, and T.J. Gurong were given yellow cards each in the game.

The Independents, after a 1-3 setback from Multinational last week, won by default against Ol'Aces. The match was listed at 3-0 in favor of Independents.

There are six competing teams this season, namely FC Arirang, Independents, Inter, Multinational FC, Ol'Aces, and Onwel.

The 10-week season ends on March 23 with the team with the most number of wins or has the best record winning the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association Men's League Cup.

A separate men's league tournament, the NMIFA Men's Winter Tournament, would be organized on March 30.

On opening day, Multinational FC scored a 3-1 win over Independents. Powerhouse Onwel foiled Ol'Aces' debut in a 10-0 blanking of their foe, while FC Arirang rallied back to beat rival Inter, 6-3.

Inter Saipan, composed mostly of players from the CNMI Men's National Football Team, dominated last year's Men's Summer Open League where they scored a 3-1 finals win over FC Arirang in the Tapochao Derby.

They completed a four-game sweep of their elimination round matches then cruised to a 6-1 thrashing of the Bangladeshi Sports Club in the semifinals to earn the first championship berth. Inter, however, lost to Onwel in the 2007 Onwel Cup.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Men's and women's fast-pitch league set for March 1

The CNMI Softball Association is planning to open its 2008 Men's Island-wide Men's and Women's Fast-Pitch Softball League on or about March 1. Interested individuals, teams, and organizations should start preparing for the competition. The entrance fee has been tentatively set at $800 per team plus individual membership. For more information, call Manny Tenorio at 285-8366. ***(CNMI-SA)***

Little League meeting tomorrow

The Saipan Little League Baseball Association will have an organization meeting tomorrow, Jan. 30, 6pm at the pavilion behind the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. The meeting is being requested by Little League president Juan I. Tenorio. The rest of the officers of the 2008 season are vice president and player agent Michael A. Borja, secretary Bobbie Norita-Techur, treasurer Annie Deleon Guerrero Flores, chief statistician Roque Celis, safety officer Ben Taitano, umpire consultant James Miwata, and managers' representative George N. Camacho. ***(SLLBA)***

UFO to gauge interest in cage league first

Rather than hold a meeting, coordinator Leo Canedo said the United Filipino Organization Basketball League will first gauge the interest of teams that want to take part in the competition. Canedo said teams that want to take part in the 2008 season of the widely popular basketball league should call UFO secretary Olive Yana at 285-7893 to register. Canedo earlier said that the UFO, the umbrella group of Filipino organizations on Saipan, hopes to revive the UFO Basketball League in late February or early March 2008. Canedo said like in previous stagings of the league, entry fee is $700 and as many as 12 teams can be accommodated by the organization. Games likely will be held on weekends with two games slated for Saturday and a triple-header scheduled on Sunday. Canedo said interested teams must be affiliated with a UFO member organization and are allowed to carry the names of their sponsoring companies as well. ***(UFO)***

SAIWAI sets time for Valentine's Walk, board meeting today

The 7th Annual Valentine's Walk of the Saipan Walking Association, Inc. scheduled for Feb. 9 will start with a 6:30am registration at the Carolinian Utt across the Bank of Guam building in Garapan.

The kick-off for SAIWAI's 2008 season will offer 5- and 10-kilometer walking events and are held "in the spirit of Valentine's Day honoring love and lovers while focusing in enhancing the wellness of the heart and physical well-being through non-competitive walking."

Like in the past, the 2008 edition of the Valentine's Walk is sanctioned by IVV and as such SAIWAI and IVV members will receive credit for joining.

IVV has member walking clubs in the U.S., Canada, Brazil, Japan, South Korea, Turkey, Nepal, Australia, New Zealand, the CNMI, and 29 other European countries, including Germany.

For more information about 7th Annual Valentines Walk and SAIWAI's other events for 2008, contact Mario Espeleta at 322-8876, Hiroko Tenorio at 322-8781, or Bea Quitugua at 285-1694.

In related news, the board of directors of the local walking organization will have a meeting at 4pm today at the Hafadai Beach Hotel coffee shop.

SAIWAI was incorporated as a non-profit corporation on July 27, 2001 and was established to promote public health through non-competitive walking. ***(Mark Rabago)***

PIC outlasts last year's finalist Hyatt

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Tiger wins Buick in a rout to tie Palmer

Tiger Woods joined the King, and left everyone else at the Buick Invitational feeling like paupers. In his most dominant start to a season, Woods built an 11-shot lead Sunday.

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Djokovic beats Tsonga for the Aussie Open title

By JOHN PYE
AP SPORTS WRITER

Serbia's Novak Djokovic holds a trophy after beating Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France, in the final of the Men's singles at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 27, 2008.

AP

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Novak Djokovic started making peace with the crowd as soon as he lifted the trophy. After beating Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 (2) Sunday night to win the Australian Open for his first Grand Slam title, Djokovic knew a little public relations was in order.

True, he had kept the Rod Laver Arena crowd in stitches last week with his Maria Sharapova impersonation. But Djokovic also had upset Roger Federer in the semifinals and now had eliminated Tsonga, who was riding a great wave into the title match.

"I know the crowd wanted him to win more," Djokovic said. "That's OK. It's all right. I still love you guys—don't worry. I'm very, very happy that I won my first Grand Slam here, so hopefully we'll see you here on this stage a lot more often."

Djokovic felt as if he had to fight two rivals—the fans and his opponent—in beating Federer and Tsonga. He frequently yelled when things went wrong.

"Sometimes, you just can't control your emotions on the court," he said. "I'm still learning. I'm still young."

The 20-year-old Serb is the first man other than No. 2 Rafael Nadal to win a Grand Slam title from Federer since Marat Safin won the 2005 Australian Open.

Djokovic said he was under extreme pressure to defeat Tsonga, an unseeded Frenchman who had beaten four players in the top 14, including Nadal in straight sets in the semifinals.

Tsonga's audacious style, resemblance to Muhammad Ali and magnificent run in only his fifth major made him a popular contender at Melbourne Park. His great tale about his Congolese father witnessing the epic "Rumble in the Jungle" heavyweight bout between Ali and George Foreman in 1974 added to the legend.

The underdog story gained momentum when Tsonga's father, Didier, who flew in from France for the match, stood and threw four right hooks to celebrate his son's first-set success.

Djokovic admitted he felt the heat. But he regrouped after the first-set barrage and began to climb back. He did not face a break point in the second and third sets. He staved off one crucial break point in the fourth before dominating the tiebreaker.

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Miyachi and Shimizu top Coffee Trail Run

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Fujio Miyachi and Maimi Shimizu topped the Inaugural 12-kilometer Marianas Coffee Trail Run held last Saturday from Micro Beach to Saipan highest peak, Mt. Tapochao.

The scheduled trail run started at Micro Beach at the American Memorial Park where runners passed through a challenging terrain along Saipan's oldest wild coffee trees that still grows along Mt. Tapochao's slopes.

Shimizu

Participants gathered at Micro Beach as early as 5:30am and when race started they headed straight up to the Navy Hill road up and around Mt. Tapochao down to Capital Hill and back to American Memorial Park.

The course is almost similar to the Tough Love Mt. Bike Race held last year.

One hour, 23 minutes and 31 seconds later Miyachi found himself back at Micro Beach after completing the grueling 12-km on- and off-road trail run.

Winter Festival of Runs Half Marathon winner Eli Torgeson settled for runner-up honors after completing the course in 1:25.45, while Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel came in third—overall and in the men's division—crossing the finish line in 1:38.27.

Eighteen-year-old David Bautista finished fourth with 1:41.10 and Tinian's Ken Halliday came in 28 seconds later to end up in fifth, 1:41.38.

Completing the Top 10 male runners were

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Aguon: We will address concerns about referees

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands Referee Association president Rufino Aguon said they would address the concerns brought up by some players regarding game officials and the calls they make.

Aguon

Aguon, in an email, said they would address these concerns during BANMI's monthly meeting next month.

In a story that came out in the *Saipan Tribune*, D-1 Ulloa player John Sablan

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Torres is January Prince of the Lanes

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

J.D. Torres claimed the first Prince/Princess of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament, ruling the January roll-off with a 62-pin victory last Sunday at the Saipan Bowling Center in San Jose.

Torres followed pedestrian throws of 149, 151, and 135 with an eye-popping score of 246 pinfalls and finished with a 170.25 average after knocking down 681 pins.

He beat runners-up Zach Cruz and Raphael Zapanta for the monthly youth tournament that is held together with the MARPAC-sponsored Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes.

Cruz was unceremoniously dropped to second place by Torres' fourth game flurry. He finished with a 619 pinfall total and 154.75 average after rolls of 158, 128, 185, and 148.

Zapanta, meanwhile, settled for third place after last year's three-time youth monthly winner put on a performance of 147, 167, 132, and 143 for a pinfall total of 588, good for an average of 147.

Ryan Gutierrez (561 total and 140.25 average), Carrie Camacho (517 and 129.25), Nikko Gutierrez (504 and 126), and Troy Verdaguer (493 and 123.25) also took part in the monthly roll-off for junior players not averaging 160 in leagues.

Interestingly, the 246 rolled by Torres wound up second only to the 255 recorded in the third game by Budweiser King of the Lanes pacesetter

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Prince of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament winner J.D. Torres is flanked by runners-up Zach Cruz, right, and Raphael Zapanta following the monthly youth tournament held last Sunday at the Capital Bowling Center.